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Celebrity Pg 30

Kate and Owen — third time's the charm?

PM, Dion hint at possible fall election

PARLIAMENT Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion are signalling a fall election is a question of when, not if.

Harper said in Hamilton yesterday he would consult the other parties about the likelihood of a "productive fall session" and contacted Dion's office to set the wheels in motion.

In Ottawa, Dion said Canadians are ready for an election and that he's ready to replace a prime minister he says can't be believed or trusted.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Beijing **Medal haul**

JERRY LAMPEN/REUTERS

Priscilla Lopes-Schliep of Canada celebrates winning the bronze medal in the women's 100-metre hurdles at the Beijing Olympics yesterday. It was another productive day for Canadians, who won four medals, bringing their tally to 13. Coverage, pages 11,12.

Cops sting Scorpions

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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Seven alleged members of a notorious Vancouver-based gang, which is believed to be responsible for the murder of six people in a Surrey highrise, have been arrested in Victoria following a month-long undercover investigation.

The suspects, six men and one woman in their late teens to mid-twenties, are either members or associates of the Red Scorpions and were arrested last week during a drug raid in a Saanich home.

Victoria Police Sgt. Grant Hamilton said yesterday that police started the investigation when they noticed a new group of drug dealers "aggressively trying to assert themselves" into Victoria's drug trafficking trade.

He said police travelled to Surrey to meet with the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team and learned that four of the dealers they had identified were affiliated with the Red Scorpion gang.

"The (gang) is known for its willingness to use violence and intimidation, so that was a concern for us ... We were concerned of a turf war."

Some of the gang's members have been associated with the shooting deaths of six men in a Surrey highrise last year, in which two innocent people, Ed Schellenberg, 55 and Chris Mohan, 22, were killed.

The high-profile murders were the culmination of several months of gang hits in the Lower Mainland.

"Criminals don't know boundaries," said Hamilton. "You combat (them) through good intelligence and sharing of information. That's why we went to Surrey … because you need those resources to be successful."

Gang marker

- Red Scorpion gang members can be identified by the RS tattoo they wear on their necks or wrists.

Woman hurt by snagged trolley cables

JEFF HODSON
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INVESTIGATION A 63-year-old woman was injured by falling trolley cables after they became entangled in the raised boom of a city engineering vehicle, police said yesterday.

The accident occurred around 6:30 p.m. Monday at the intersection of Cambie Street and 41st Avenue.

City workers were re-installing street lighting poles. They had just picked up a pole, and were travelling along the boulevard when the boom snagged in the trolley lines.

The falling wires struck the woman in the face. She was taken to hospital, treated and released. Traffic in the area was backed up for hours as crews worked to repair the damage.

Al Luongo, manager of traffic and electrical operations for the City of Vancouver, said the accident was an isolated incident.

"We're still investigating, but preliminary findings are that the boom on the truck wasn't properly lowered," Luongo said. "The drivers are being reminded what the proper procedures are and to follow them."

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Travel pg 25

Vancouver Island retreat

Entertainment pg 27

Lee parties at GM Place

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Sea-toSky gets Paralympic representation
Sit-skier and Para-Alpine coach Brad Lennea and volunteer race official Sarah Tipler are going to Beijing to represent the Sea-to-Sky corridor. They will take part in the Paralympic Games Torch Relay on Sept. 5 and 6. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Local

Cyclists want transit space

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition says TransLink needs to allow more than two bikes per SkyTrain car. As rising gas prices make commuting by car more expensive, more people are turning to two wheels to get to work, and that means more people wanting to take their bikes on public transit. SOURCE: CBC.CA/BC

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Surrey applies to euthanize pit bulls linked to 8 attacks

DOGS The city of Surrey has made a court application to euthanize four pit bulls that allegedly attacked people and animals in eight incidents in the past year, including one last week.

The dogs were seized on Aug. 11, a day after a man was allegedly surrounded and bitten by the animals while walking his dog in a park in Surrey on Aug. 10.

The pit bulls' owner, Hal Douglas Harris, was pulled over by Vancouver police following a search for the animals and their owner.

In an affidavit filed on Monday, animal control officer Phil Greene alleged the pit bulls attacked and injured at least five people and seven dogs, and killed at least one dog, in eight separate incidents, CBC News Online reports.

The papers also indicated Harris may be the owner of several other dogs involved in the attacks. A court hearing is set for Aug. 28.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Affidavit claims

- The affidavit claims eight of Harris' dogs attacked a German shorthaired pointer in Surrey in August 2007.
- It also alleges several of his pit bulls attacked a terrier in Nanaimo, two Pomeranians in Surrey, a minature American Eskimo dog in North Saanich and killed a bichon frise in Surrey.

News in brief

CORRECTION COPE, the Coalition Of Progressive Electors, is using Facebook to help develop its policies and election platform. The discussions on the social networking site will help participants prepare for the party's upcoming policy conference on Sept. 14.

SHOT One person was shot and at least one person was arrested at a Surrey home last night. Police closed off the street and several officers responded.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

McLean site targeted

Scammer posed as beheaded man's sister

JEFF HODSON
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An online fraudster may have ripped off family and friends of a young man who was beheaded on a Greyhound bus in late July.

The scammer posed as "Amanda McLean" and identified herself as the sister of Tim McLean on as many as five Facebook tribute groups dedicated to the slain 22-year-old carnival worker.

The impostor then set up a PayPal account and began soliciting donations, supposedly to cover the family's financial hardships.

Ron C. Schinners, a 32-year-old Port Alberni man, didn't know McLean, but felt compelled to launch a Facebook memorial group in the wake of the killing. His brother-in-law was murdered in 2003.

Schinners said he was taken in by the woman's story, and initially believed she was McLean's sister: "She knew all this inside stuff and I believed it."

PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Ron C. Schinners started a Facebook page that was the target of a scammer trying to profit from others' grief.

But Debbie Mesojednik, a Manitoba woman who helped identify the scam, said she noticed the postings on at least five Tim McLean memorial groups.

"When I saw the posting and I saw the picture I knew something was wrong, because Tim's sister is Amanda Corrigan, not Amanda McLean," she said.

Mesojednik assumed an alias name and began questioning the scammer.

She discovered that the fraudster's profile photo was lifted from a pet rescue website; it depicted a Colorado college student named Amanda McLean and her dog Milo.

Mesojednik brought the information to a friend of the McLean family.

Two of the sisters accosted "Amanda McLean" in the group.

Corrigan wrote: "How SICK are you to set up a fraud account in my brother's memory to make some quick cash you ignorant wench! I hope you get arrested for fraud!"

It is not known if anyone donated money to the PayPal account.

RCMP staff told CBC News that they could not confirm whether an investigation was taking place.

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

News in brief

CHEMICAL FIRE The Surrey home where a chemical fire broke out Monday afternoon, injuring three people, is not a clandestine drug lab, cknw.com reports. But police say drugs are still part of the investigation.

FAKE CASH Vancouver police are warning people to be on the lookout for fake $20 bills after some were used at a multi-family garage sale in East Vancouver on Saturday, news1130.com reports. The holographic square on the fake bills look worn down.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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What's online today.

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Boy George coming to town
Boy George will perform at Celebrities Night Club in Vancouver on Sept. 6. The androgynous singer, known for his soulful voice and colourful sense of fashion, now performs as a DJ around the world. Tickets are $25. METRO VANCOUVER

Leaders tour garbage incineration plant

ENERGY With fuel costs rising, the ability to turn trash into energy has become an increasingly attractive option to Canadian cities.

More than 30 municipal leaders from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities toured Metro Vancouver's waste-to-energy incinerator in Burnaby yesterday for a better understanding of the pros and cons of incinerating garbage.

The facility, which consumes 280,000 tonnes of garbage annually, is one of only a handful in Canada and the only one west of Ontario.

Ron Richter, vice president of Veolia Environmental Services, said Canada has one of the lowest rates of waste-to-energy in the Western world: about three per cent.

Landfills, he said, have always been more attractive because the country has been blessed with cheap electricity, cheap fuel and lots of land.

With costs of electricity and fuel on the rise, trucking garbage to landfills has become less viable. Landfills, he added, account for nine per cent of the province's total greenhouse gases. More waste-to-energy would result in a significant reduction of greenhouse gases.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Municipal leaders tour Metro Vancouver's waste-to-energy plant in Burnaby yesterday.

100 years of rucks, scrums and tries

Rowers take on Victoria in centennial rugby match

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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When the Vancouver Rowing Club's rugby team, the Rowers, take on their archrivals, Victoria's James Bay club, at the annual Cox Cup on Sept. 6, it will be history in the making.

On that date, the teams will have officially been butting heads, and shoulders, for a century.

To mark the event, the VRC's most famous former member, Ernie Pinkham, who is also 100, will be tossing the coin on the field.

The historic game kicks off the rugby season and the week-long centennial celebrations, honouring one of the oldest amateur sporting clubs in North America.

The VRC's Stanley Park clubhouse, which opened in 1911, is a Vancouver Heritage Site.

Pinkham, who is a Rugby Hall Of Famer, was at the clubhouse yesterday with an album of photos chronicling his years with the club, while friends recounted his team's two-week journey by ship to Japan in 1931.

By the time they arrived, they had lost all their rugby balls overboard.

"This is an incredible milestone in both our history and that of the city," said Alan Wilcox, the VRC's honorary president and centenary chairman.

"What we're trying show the younger members is some of the history and the people who have come before."

big draw

- The party is drawing hundreds of former rugby players from around the world, including opponents from the United Kingdom and Australia who played against VRC in the '70s.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Rugby Hall Of Famer Ernie Pinkham and his daughter, Judith Pinkham, at the Victoria Rowing Club's clubhouse yesterday.

letters

Abide smoking bylaw, please

To the smokers who still insist on smoking on public patios or near public doorways when there are usually signs posted clearly stating that it is now forbidden: please realize that this is now the by-law in Vancouver. Other people, including myself, do not want to breathe your second-hand smoke. Try showing some respect.

PAUL ANDERSON, VIA E-MAIL

Men charged with assaulting officers appear in court

ASSAULT Three men charged with assaulting three RCMP officers at a Richmond bus stop appeared in court yesterday.

Cpl. Nycki Basra said the Mounties noticed a group of men arguing with a bus driver at around 10:30 p.m. on Aug. 15.

"One of the officers attempted to arrest a male suspect for possession of marijuana … (and) he resisted arrest by fighting with the officer," said Basra.

She said two other men joined the scuffle, and eventually all three officers became involved.

The men, including 22-year-old Alfred Kumi of Vancouver, ran off, but were caught by the police dog unit.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"One of the officers attempted to arrest a male suspect … (and) he resisted arrest by fighting."
Cpl. Nycki Basra

Ferry delayed after biohazard scare

FERRIES A biohazard scare that caused delays at the Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal turned out to be nothing but rubbish — literally.

Crew aboard the Queen Of Surrey found a broom in a plastic bag with a biohazard note around 10:30 p.m. on Monday.

Passengers on the last ferry to Langdale were delayed while West Vancouver police came to inspect the bag.

B.C. Ferries spokesperson Deborah Marshall said the contents turned out not to be a threat, and regular service resumed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

DRUG BUST Two people from Vancouver have been arrested in Manitoba's largest-ever ecstacy bust, news1130.com reports. Police officers searching a motorhome with B.C. plates during a traffic stop near Falcon Lake found approximately one million pills of the drug.

FIRE Two people believed to have been inside the Columbus Hotel in Prince George when a fire broke out yesterday morning are still unaccounted for, CBC News Online reports. Six people were rescued from the hotel, which is now used for subsidized and low-income housing.

CON AIR New Westminster police are following Vancouver's lead in launching its own "Con-Air" program after a recent arrest, news1130.com reports. Officers in New West flew Victor Patrick Ramsey, 35, to Calgary where he faces multiple charges.

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Carleton steps up security
The building at Ottawa's Carleton University where a student was beaten and sexually assaulted last year has been equipped with a number of security measures, including cameras, uniformed patrols, and swipe cards. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Two-mouthed fish

Days before a conference on clean water was to begin last week in Fort Chipewyan, Alta., a mutated fish with a second jaw and set of teeth located below its mouth was found in nearby Lake Athabasca, CBC News Online reports. The discovery has fuelled concern about pollution from the oilsands. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ottawa **Terror trial**

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Momin Khawaja, left, is transported from the Ottawa courthouse yesterday following a day of hearings. Khawaja, a Canadian software developer, is accused of helping plan bomb attacks in Britain.

Harper slams scolding

Chretien's Olympic criticism 'hypocritical,' PM says

HAMILTON Prime Minister Stephen Harper pushed back yesterday after his predecessor, Jean Chrétien, scolded Harper's failure to visit Beijing this week.

At a news conference in Hamilton, Harper dismissed the weight of his absence at an Olympics attended by about 80 world leaders, including U.S. President George W. Bush.

"I don't always do what Mr. Bush does," Harper told reporters.

"I don't always do what Mr. Bush does."
Stephen Harper

"As you know, I haven't attended Olympics in the past. I indicated a long time ago I had no intention of attending this one. I have work to do in the country.

"And I would just point out that Mr. Chrétien almost never attended Olympics when he was prime minister in 13 years. He did once in 13 years. So Mr. Chrétien is being a bit hypocritical."

Chrétien's comments came in Quebec City, where he accused Harper of failing to nurture a relationship with China.

"Starting with Diefenbaker, Trudeau and all of us, we established very good relations, relatively speaking, with China. And suddenly you break the bridge," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tory government has 'ethical problems': Dion

ELECTION Prime Minister Stephen Harper is raring for a fall election because his government is "wracked with ethical problems," Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion said yesterday. Dion recalled the RCMP raid on the Conservative headquarters earlier this year, and accusations that party members bribed Independent MP Chuck Cadman.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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New book on Bush by journalist Bob Woodward

U.S. journalist Bob Woodward, best known for his investigations into the Watergate scandal, will release his fourth book on President George W. Bush on Sept. 8, entitled The War Within: A Secret White House History 2006-2008. REUTERS

World/Business

Russia drags its heels

NATO, UN Security Council push for quick withdrawal

The Kremlin said its forces would pull back from Georgia's heartland by Friday to positions set out under a French-brokered peace plan, amid mounting Western criticism about the slowness of the troop withdrawal.

Washington said it had yet to see any serious pullout and accused Russia of targeting civilians and wanting to strangle Georgia.

"It's becoming more and more the outlaw in this conflict," U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said of Russia, escalating a stream of criticism from Washington.

"They intend and probably still do intend to strangle Georgia and its economy," she said in Brussels, where she attended a NATO meeting on the crisis.

UN resolution

The UN Security Council met yesterday to discuss a resolution demanding:

- Ceasefire compliance
- The return of Georgian forces to their usual bases
- Russia's immediate withdrawal to lines held before the recent conflict.

Russia's UN ambassador says it can't support the draft because it doesn't include points from the mutually signed peace plan.

In Gori, a strategic town on Georgia's main east-west highway, six Russian armoured personnel carriers, three tanks and two other vehicles headed towards Russia yesterday in what Moscow said was the start of its promised withdrawal.

Dmitry Medvedev

But nearby other Russian troops were seen digging trenches near artillery positions. In parts of western Georgia, far from the breakaway South Ossetia region at the heart of the conflict, Russian forces also showed no sign of preparing to depart.

Britain's Foreign Secretary David Miliband, in Tbilisi, said continued delays would seriously damage Moscow's reputation.

"With every commitment (to leave) and with every failure to live up to that commitment, the international pressure will grow (on Russia)," he told a joint news conference with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili.

"A country relies on the word of its president being its bond," he said.

The U.S. Treasury said Russia had hurt its business climate with its decision to send troops into Georgia, which it called a "Cold War tactic."

The Kremlin quoted Russian President Dmitry Medvedev as telling French President Nicolas Sarkozy by telephone that most Russian forces would withdraw to Russia or to South Ossetia by Aug. 22, leaving some troops in a buffer zone around the breakaway region. REUTERS

10 French soldiers killed in ambush

AFGHANISTAN French President Nicolas Sarkozy prepared to fly to Afghanistan a day after 10 French soldiers were killed and 21 wounded in a clash with Taliban, and declared France remained committed to its mission there.

"The cause is just. It is an honour for France and its army to defend it," Sarkozy said in a statement.

The soldiers were killed Monday when their unit was ambushed on a reconnaissance mission east of Kabul on Monday. REUTERS

News in brief

MOSCOW Mikhail Mukasei, a well-decorated Soviet spy co-denamed "Zephyr" who worked undercover in Europe and the United States for more than a quarter of a century has died at age 101, Russia's foreign intelligence agency (SVR) said yesterday. During World War II, Mukasei gathered "highly valued" information linked to Japan's wartime threat to the Soviet Union.

CAIRO A massive fire gutted the main building of Egypt's upper house of parliament yesterday, injuring 10. More than a dozen fire engines and helicopters were called to the scene. State-run media said the cause was probably a short-circuit. REUTERS

Pakistani coalition bickering

ATHAR HUSSAIN/REUTERS

Lawyers celebrate Musharraf's resignation in Karachi yesterday.

ISLAMABAD A day after President Pervez Musharraf quit, Pakistan's fractious coalition government squabbled over the judiciary and a suicide bomb killed 25 people, underscoring the challenges they face.

Coalition leaders, who opposed Musharraf, met to tackle pressing economic and security problems and to discuss a new president, but got bogged down over the fate of judges Musharraf purged last year.

The bickering, and the prospects of more to come, are likely to dismay investors and allies. "If they cannot agree on the restoration of the judges ... clearly something is not right with the coalition," said analyst Farid Khan.

"If the coalition can't agree on the judges, something is not right."
Farid Khan, analyst

Security is also a huge problem. In the northern Pakistani town of Dera Ismail Khan, a Taliban bomber struck a hospital as Shi'ite Muslims protested against the killing of a leader earlier in the day.

Elsewhere in the northwest, 20 militants were killed in a clash, the government said.

The two main coalition parties who must now deal with these problems were bitter rivals through the 1990s when Benazir Bhutto and Nawiz Sharif severed alternating terms as prime minister. Analysts have said opposition to Musharraf bonded the old rivals and his departure could see them drift apart. REUTERS

Business

Russian-Canadian energy deals at risk

Prime Minister Stephen Harper allowed yesterday for the possibility of commercial natural gas deals with Russia being put at risk by Russia's military actions in neighbouring Georgia.

Asked if such deals could be at risk, Harper said: "We're examining obviously all aspects of our relationship. We're obviously focusing on aspects that have to do with the strategic and military situation, but we will of course review everything."

In May, Russia's Gazprom, the world's largest natural gas company, announced it was joining Enbridge Inc, Gaz Metro and Gaz de France in developing an $840 million Cdn liquefied natural gas project on the St. Lawrence River at Levis, across from Quebec City.

The 500-million cubic feet of gas a day from the plant would supply the Quebec and Ontario markets. REUTERS

Newfoundland and Chevron to sign Hebron deal today

OIL Newfoundland and Chevron Corp. will sign a deal today to develop the $6-billion Hebron oil field, the province's fourth offshore producing project, the government said.

The formal deal comes a year after Premier Danny Williams and the oil companies agreed to a memorandum of understanding to give Newfoundland a 4.9 per cent stake in the field for $110 million.

The field, located in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin, is co-owned by Petro-Canada, Exxon Mobil Corp. and StatoilHydro. REUTERS

Google invests in new energy source

ENERGY Google Inc. said yesterday it is investing more than $10 million US in emerging geothermal energy technology to clean up the environment. The technology, called enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) circulates water through hot rocks in the ground, producing steam to power a turbine. REUTERS

In brief

TELEMARKETING The creators of the "do not call" registry have decided to tighten rules restricting prerecorded sales calls, forcing telemarketers with prerecorded messages to give consumers a way to opt out in the United States.

IPHONE Apple Inc. has issued a software update for the latest iPhone to fix connection problems that led to a flurry of online complaints. REUTERS

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Cobourne captures weekly CFL honours

Three Montreal Alouettes, including running back Avon Cobourne, were among those selected as the CFL's top players for Week 8. The defensive prize went to Montreal defensive tackle Keron Williams. Toronto's Dominique Dorsey captured the special teams honor. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Red Sox' Beckett to miss next start

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Josh Beckett, left, will miss his scheduled start against the Blue Jays on Saturday because of numbness in the pinky and ring finer on his right hand. The 28-year-old righty confirmed he has persevered through the injury for most of the season and felt he needed some time off. Beckett was roughed up for eight runs on eight hits in less than three innings against Toronto on Sunday, and is just 2-4 in his last six starts. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Blue Jays topple Yankees

Damon's misplay in outfield allows winning run

Blue Jays 2 Yankees 1

AARON LYNETT/TORSTAR

Toronto Blue Jays starter A.J. Burnett pitched eight innings, allowing only five hits and one run while striking out 13 batters to lead the Jays to a 2-1 win over the New York Yankees last night.

Twice, Johnny Damon had balls clank in and out of his glove last night.

The first time, he took an error, but the Yanks escaped unscathed. The second was deadly, pushing across the margin of victory in a large 2-1 Blue Jay win over the New York Yankees.

Marco Scutaro did the delivering with what was ruled a double, cashing a two-out Joe Inglett single with a ball Damon trailed to the warning track — then dropped.

Prime beneficiary — besides the Jays, we mean — was A.J. Burnett, who climbed to 16-9 with eight innings of 13-strikeout five-hitter. It was his sixth straight win. B.J. Ryan worked a one-hit ninth for his 24th save.

Adam Lind ripped a one-out homer in the seventh to square a game the Jays had trailed since the first.

Yankees starter Darrell Rasner had toted a two-hit shutout into the seventh, but Lind disrupted that with a jolt that carried majestically — just — into the New York bullpen.

A 3-2 slider, apparently, giving Lind nine homers on the season and three in as many games.

"I didn't think he got it. It didn't sound good off the bat, but we kept talking to it and it listened," Burnett said of Lind's home run.

Of his own mound exploits, Burnett was somewhat modest. Even though he's been scorching lately, he didn't want to talk about hitting the 20-victory mark.

"Probably too early to talk about 20 wins. Way too early," he said.

Jays manager Cito Gaston felt some sympathy for Yankees goat Damon.

"This guy's a good outfielder. I think if the roof's closed, that's gonna be a home run anyway. That ball started to get small real quick then just got knocked down," said Gaston, who was nonetheless glad to take the run and the victory.

"It would have been a tough one to lose, any time you get that kind of pitching performance," Gaston added.

The come-from-behind verdict before 37,221 at the Rogers Centre nudged the Jays five games over .500 for the first time since May 30 and to within a game of the Yankees for third place in the AL East.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nadal, Ivanovic top seeds at U.S. Open

TENNIS Rafael Nadal and Ana Ivanovic, both ranked world No. 1, were named yesterday as the top seeds for the U.S. Open which begins at Flushing Meadows on Monday.

It is the first time that Spaniard Nadal, who replaced Roger Federer at the top of the men's rankings on Monday, has been the top seed at a grand-slam tournament.

Federer, who has won the U.S. Open in each of the past four years, is seeded second, the first time he has not been the top seed in a grand slam since the Australian Open of 2004.

Novak Djokovic, the Australian Open champion and runner-up to Federer last year in New York, is seeded third, with Spaniard David Ferrer fourth.

French Open champion Ivanovic, chasing her first U.S. Open title, heads the women's list for the first time. REUTERS

JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES

Serbia's Ana Ivanovic has been named the top seed in the women's draw at the U.S. Open.

White Rock wins game, but misses out on playoffs

BASEBALL Canada's entry at the Little League World Series finally has its first win. Trailing 5-2 in the bottom of the sixth inning, the squad from White Rock, B.C. rallied for five runs en route to a 7-5 win over Saudi Arabia. White Rock finishes the round robin portion of the tournament at 1-2, which is not good enough to qualify for a spot in today's semifinal.

Whitecaps taking aim at first place in USL

SOCCER The Vancouver Whitecaps have their sights set on first place in the USL tonight in Seattle. A win would move the 'Caps into a tie with Puerto Rico for top spot in the division with one month to go in the regular season. Seattle currently sits fourth with 32 points, but a win would put them within three points of Vancouver.

SCOTT RINTOUL/METRO VANCOUVER

Sports in brief

MLB Baltimore Orioles closer George Sherrill was placed on the 15-day disabled list yesterday with left shoulder inflammation.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	77	48	.616	—
Boston	73	53	.579	4½
N.Y. Yankees	66	59	.528	11
Toronto	65	60	.520	12
Baltimore	60	65	.480	17

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	72	53	.576	—
Minnesota	71	54	.568	1
Detroit	62	64	.492	10½
Cleveland	57	67	.460	14½
Kansas City	55	70	.440	17

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	76	48	.613	—
Texas	62	65	.488	15½
Oakland	57	68	.456	19½
Seattle	46	79	.368	30½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
N.Y. Mets	69	57	.548	—
Philadelphia	67	58	.536	1½
Florida	64	61	.512	4½
Atlanta	56	70	.444	13
Washington	44	82	.349	25

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	77	48	.616	—
Milwaukee	72	55	.567	6
St. Louis	70	58	.547	8½
Houston	64	62	.508	13½
Pittsburgh	57	69	.452	20½
Cincinnati	55	71	.437	22½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	65	60	.520	—
L.A. Dodgers	64	60	.516	½
Colorado	57	69	.452	8½
San Francisco	53	71	.427	11½
San Diego	48	77	.384	17

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Toronto 2 N.Y. Yankees 1
Boston 7 Baltimore 2
Chicago White Sox 5 Seattle 0
Cleveland 9 Kansas City 4
Detroit 11 Texas 3
Minnesota 13 Oakland 2
Tampa Bay 4 L.A. Angels 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs 5 Cincinnati 0
Houston 5 Milwaukee 2
N.Y. Mets 7 Atlanta 3
Philadelphia 5 Washington 4
Pittsburgh 4 St. Louis 1
Arizona 7 San Diego 6
Colorado 8 L.A. Dodgers 3
Florida 6 San Francisco 0

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Oakland at Minnesota, 10:10
Seattle at Chicago White Sox, 11:05
Boston at Baltimore, 4:05
Kansas City at Cleveland, 4:05
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto, 4:07
L.A. Angels at Tampa Bay, 4:10
Detroit at Texas, 5:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Houston at Milwaukee, 11:05
Washington at Philadelphia, 4:05
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 4:10
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 5:05
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 6:15
San Diego at Arizona, 6:40
Colorado at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10
Florida at San Francisco, 7:15

CFL

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	6	1	0	12
Edmonton	4	3	0	8
Calgary	4	3	0	8
B.C.	4	3	0	8

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	5	3	0	10
Toronto	3	5	0	6
Hamilton	2	6	0	4
Winnipeg	2	6	0	4

WEEK 9

TOMORROW'S GAME

Saskatchewan at Edmonton, 6

FRIDAY'S GAME

Calgary at B.C., 7:30

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS MEN'S TEAM:

TONIGHT'S GAME

VANCOUVER at Seattle, 7

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER CANADIANS:

YESTERDAY'S RESULT

Boise 16 VANCOUVER 9

TONIGHT'S GAME

VANCOUVER at Eugene, 7:05

Field hockey
Canada finally got its first men's field hockey win yesterday, with a 5-3 effort over South Africa. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beijing Games

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Despatie exceeds expectations

Canadian diver overcomes injury to snatch silver in Beijing

YorkReport

Members of the Canadian Olympic Committee, who are responsible for anything and everything regarding this country's involvement in the Games, did not think diver Alexandre Despatie would win a medal in Beijing.

I know because, while preparing for Metro's coverage of the Olympics a few months ago, I picked the brains of several COC members in an effort to determine who Canadians could count on to garner medals during these Olympics. I took notes, of course, but I assured the members they wouldn't be identified, so they shared their thoughts.

"The obvious medal hopefuls," one of the COC voices told me, "are the men's eight rowing team and (kayaker) Adam van Koeverden. Brent Hayden is a world-class swimmer and we think he has a great chance, too. And we think Tyler Christopher has a shot in track."

"What about Despatie?" I asked. "He's a world champion."

"We don't think he can overcome his injury problems," came the reply. "He was probably our best bet before he got hurt, but we don't like his chances now."

OnlineVideos metronews.ca

So see what the COC saw?

It was bang-on about the men's eight and probably will be by the time van Koeverden is done this week, but Hayden and Christopher came up short.

And despite a foot injury and back problems, Despatie finished second yesterday in the men's three-metre springboard in Beijing.

"I could sense people gave up on me," the 23-year-old Quebecer said. "I knew what they were thinking, and I might have had the same opinion about myself if I didn't know myself so well. I knew I could bounce back."

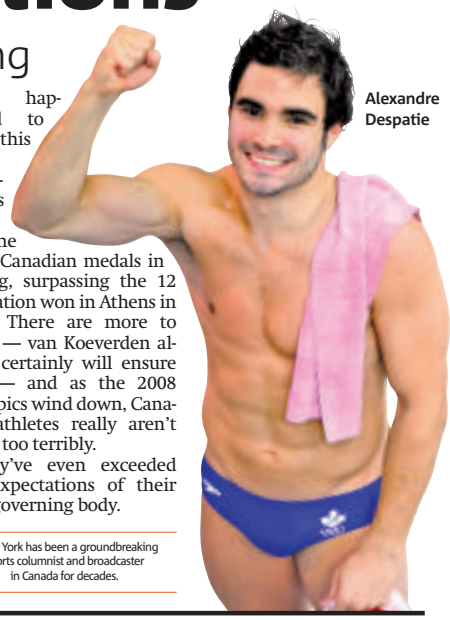
Despatie fractured his right foot in April after kicking, of all things, a soccer ball. That caused him to miss seven weeks of training and prevented him from attending the Olympic diving trials. He qualified for the Olympics in early July, only after attending the Canadian junior national championships and proving his fitness to a panel of judges.

"I had to prove a lot to many people, but I never gave up hope on myself," Despatie said. "And, as far as I'm concerned, my silver medal is gold to me, because of all the bad things that happened to me this year."

Despatie's silver is one of 13 Canadian medals in Beijing, surpassing the 12 our nation won in Athens in 2004. There are more to come — van Koeverden almost certainly will ensure that — and as the 2008 Olympics wind down, Canada's athletes really aren't doing too terribly.

They've even exceeded the expectations of their own governing body.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.


Alexandre Despatie

Baseball
Despite a 4-0 win over the Netherlands, Canada was eliminated from medal contention in baseball yesterday. Brooks McNiven of Vancouver, left, allowed just a single hit and no walks over six innings. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

CANOE-KAYAK Canadian Adam van Koeverden got the defence of his Olympic K-1 500-metre title off to the perfect start yesterday, beating his own world best time. Van Koeverden, undefeated during the 2008 World Cup season, won the day's first heat in 1:35.554. "I am happy to hear that I have broken (the record) but I can definitely go faster than that," said the Oakville, Ont., native.

SOCCER Sergio Aguero scored twice as Argentina defeated Brazil 3-0 yesterday in an Olympic semifinal between two of the world's great men's soccer powers. Nigeria reached the final with a 4-1 thrashing of Belgium in the other semi. REUTERS

Medal count

Rank	Nation				Total
#1	U.S.	26	26	27	79
#2	China	43	14	19	76
#3	Russia	10	14	18	42
#4	Australia	11	12	12	35
#5	Britain	16	9	8	33
#6	France	4	11	14	29
#7	Germany	11	8	9	28
#8	South Korea	8	10	6	24
#9	Japan	8	6	8	22
#10	Italy	6	6	7	19
#11	Ukraine	5	4	8	17
#12	Netherlands	4	5	4	13
#13	Canada	2	6	5	13

(Count at the end of Day 11)

Burnett flips for silver

Canadian not fretting questionable judging in Beijing

Not to be flip about it, but Canada just got bounced out of gold in trampoline yesterday.

Pipped at the post by China again, and this time home field advantage may have had something to do with the outcome.

Exhibit A: Jason Burnett, with a 16.8 degree of difficulty in his 10-trick routine; hardest program in the field and certainly the riskiest, particularly that double layout with four twists — going backwards.

Exhibit B: Lu Chunlong, with a 16.2 degree of difficulty; nice, but not especially notable.

Must have picked up lots of form points, however, to seize gold, the "execution" part of trampoline a totally subjective judgment, in front of an audience that might not have accepted anything less. Own the podium, indeed.

Burnett, the 21-year-old Toronto resident, was second out of the chute yesterday, scoring 40.70. Lu, the top qualifier, got up on the apparatus last and came down with 41.00.

"I think the home crowd advantage gave the Chinese lad a bit of a boost," Canadian coach and trampoline guru Dave Ross suggested mildly. "That was enough to put Jason into second place. To me, he did the best routine today."

No matter, really. Burnett was over the moon about his silver medal.

"That rocks! That was awesome!" Burnett crowed after climbing down from the second-step podium.

He would not be drawn into any unsportsmanlike commentary about the scoring or the hypothesis that he'd been jobbed. "Some people might think so, but I can't say."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto's Jason Burnett jumped to Canada's second silver in trampoline in as many days yesterday in Beijing. Toronto's Karen Cockburn won the first on Monday.

Photo finish nets medal for Lopes-Schliep

ATHLETICS Canadian Priscilla Lopes-Schliep won bronze in the women's 100-metre hurdles yesterday at the Beijing Olympics in a photo finish.

Lopes-Schliep

Dawn Harper of the United States raced to the gold in 12.54 seconds, but there was no clear silver or bronze winners among a group of four women who trailed her.

After a couple of minutes wait, Australia's Sally McLellan was awarded silver and Lopes-Schliep, a native of Whitby, Ont., took bronze with the same time of 12.64.

McLellan and Lopes-Schliep, 25, jumped up and down hugging each other when the result finally flashed up on the screen.

Lopes-Schliep's medal is Canada's first Olympic athletics medal since the 1996 Atlanta Games.

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University of Victoria a LEED-er in sustainability
The University of Victoria's Engineering/Computer Science Building has been awarded gold-level status under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating program, making it the second on-campus building to receive such status. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Football rumours
Media mogul David Asper is rumoured to have his sights set on building a football stadium at the University of Manitoba. Asper is poised to take over ownership of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers once he secures a stadium location.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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What's the colour of your career path?

WEBSITE It's long been understood that colour can affect your mood, but what about your career choices?

What do the colours you are drawn to say about your suitability for certain careers? The Color Career Counselor, a new online personality test offered by CareerBuilder, is the world's only validated colour-based personality test that looks at the relationship between colours and career compatibility. The free test can be found at careerpath.com, a CareerBuilder.com site.

Here are some examples.

- **YELLOW, GREEN AND WHITE:** You're the designer. You make products, systems, services, or environments that fit others' needs.
- **BLUE, GREEN AND BROWN:** You're the dream maker. You are at your best when you are supporting people through periods of crisis or fixing things.
- **RED, ORANGE AND BLACK:** You're the evaluator. You increase profitability by constantly examining, in detail, the most efficient way to accomplish tasks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Innocent employee convicted of theft

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin
dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com

"Men don't plan to fail, they fail to plan."
— WILLIAM J. SIEGEL

When a Niagara Falls, Ont., outlet of The Beer Store noticed cash shortages at the store, its response was swift: Surveillance cameras were installed to monitor the employees. Soon a number of suspects were caught on tape, one of whom was employee Douglas McNeil.

McNeil was recorded taking money from the cash register. However, on separate portions of footage, the cameras showed McNeil placing corresponding amounts back into the register.

Despite knowing that McNeil had put the money back into the till, The Beer Store reported it as a theft to the police. In doing so, it submitted the entire videotape, showing McNeil taking money from the register.

However, it did not specifically mention to the police that the tapes also showed McNeil putting the money back.

Based on The Beer Store's review of the footage, criminal charges were laid and McNeil was later convicted of theft and terminated with cause.

As a unionized employee, McNeil was part of a collective agreement that allowed him to challenge the employer's decision to terminate him, by a process called a "grievance."

During the grievance process, the entire footage surfaced, which showed McNeil replacing the money back in the register, and he was able to successfully appeal his criminal conviction.

McNeil then sued The Beer Store for the unusual claim of malicious prosecution, arguing that The Beer Store's decision to charge him for theft was made with malice and without reasonable grounds.

At the trial, The Beer Store argued that it acted reasonably; however, the jury that decided the case disagreed. The Beer Store was aware of the footage showing McNeil putting the money back into the register and by failing to specifically point that evidence out to the police, it had caused McNeil to suffer criminal charges and stigma.

As a result, it awarded McNeil nearly $2.1 million, to compensative him for various losses he suffered during the 13-year ordeal between the original events and the trial.

This court ruling should cause employers to pause before making allegations of wrongdoing against employees.

Employers who act on incomplete — or worse, trumped up — allegations of misconduct risk flirting with a significant lawsuit.

Unionized employees should also be aware of the following distinction:

- Employees governed by a collective agreement generally may not bring workplace disputes to court and must grieve their issues with the union instead. In this case, the court agreed that the true nature of the dispute was outside of the workplace in allowing the claim to proceed.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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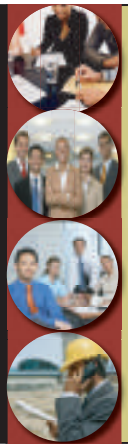

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Web development, an industry always on the go

KRISTA MARTIN
for Metro Canada

The Internet changes more often than most people change their underwear, but that doesn't scare web developer Annett Forcier.

She moved to Canada from Germany in 2003 and has been working at Snaptech for the past year. Forcier slices mock-ups and prepares websites for various clients including architects and lawyers.

Hers is a role that is constantly transforming and adapting to the newest trends while transcending different industries all at once.

"There is a saying that a website is never done," said Forcier.

"That as soon as it goes live you have to change it again,".

Forcier, 34, said that while there are web development courses and programs available now, she had to rely on on-the-job training from her time in Germany.

"There is a saying that a website is never done. That as soon as it goes live you have to change it again."
Web developer
Annett Forcier

These days there are a number of programs and courses that aspiring web developers can enrol in, but Forcier said the learning does not stop once you leave the classroom.

"The Internet moves so fast and you have to be moving with it," she said.

But that is the best part of Forcier's job.

"I have the chance to look into new industries and hear the client's stories and identify with them."

Forcier said those that aspire to a career in web development or in any Internet field should be willing and prepared to grow with it.

"It's a continuation. You never stop learning," she said.

A believer in taking her own advice, Forcier is currently enrolled in a part-time Marketing Management program at Langara College to prepare for a future as a project manager with a background in web development.

To find out more, visit snaptech.ca.

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Automotive

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

VW's tempting Tiguan

Cute-ute has built-in style

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

VW's Tiguan is aimed squarely at CUV competitors such as Honda and Toyota.

Based on the same platform that underpins the Rabbit and Jetta, Volkswagen's Tiguan is a compact five-passenger crossover aimed squarely at Honda's CR-V, the Nissan Rogue and Toyota's RAV4.

Size-wise, the "Tig" is actually quite compact, looking smaller than a CR-V. Blacked-out door pillars help lend a sporty theme to its smart styling, while all models come with a small roof spoiler and front fog lamps.

Inside, the styling takes a bit of a turn away from previous VW efforts by using circular vents, knobs and other controls rather than the squared-off look in the company's Passat, Jetta and Touareg models.

Material use is class leading as well, with good ergonomics and plenty of useful storage spots. Even the front passenger seat folds flat to accommodate long items.

As with the conventions set with the rest of the Volkswagen lineup, there are three versions of the Tiguan: Trendline, Comfortline and Highline.

Trendline is the only version available with a six-speed manual transmission and/or front-wheel-drive, and starts at $27,575. It's well-equipped with power everything, heated mirrors, 16-inch wheels, 40/20/20 split folding/sliding rear seats, eight-way adjustable front seats, audio auxiliary input, climate control, cruise control, an electronic parking brake and floor mats. Adding the six-speed automatic hikes the price to $28,975, while opting for the 4Motion (all-wheel-drive) model takes the total to $30,975.

Next up is the Comfortline, which at $33,975 includes upgrades like 17-inch wheels, power driver's seat, black roof rails, heated front seats and washer nozzles, leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knob, trip computer, snazzier cloth seating, panoramic sunroof and privacy glass.

The loaded $38,375 Highline brings 18-inch wheels, 12-way power seats with memory, auto-dimming interior mirror, automatic bi-xenon headlights, more bright trim, dual-zone climate control, leather seats and more.

Under the hood is VW's familiar 2.0-litre, turbocharged, four-cylinder with a 200-horsepower output. Fuel economy is decent as well: 11.6 L/100 km city and 8.3 L/100 km highway.

The Tiguan's suspension follows its Rabbit/Jetta platform mates, delivering a good balance between athletic reactions and quiet isolation with decent reflexes when needed.

Safety ranks above average for the class, with ABS, stability control and tire-pressure monitoring on all models. Six airbags (front, front-side and full-length curtain) are standard as well, although VW makes you pay separately for rear-seat side airbags.

2008 VW Tiguan

Type: Compact 5-pass. SUV FWD
Price: $27,575
Engine: 2.0L L4 DOHC Turbo
HP: 200 @ 5,100 rpm
Torque: 206 @ 1,700 rpm

Highlights

- Style and substance in a tidy package
- Power output
- All-wheel drive available
- Athletic reactions
- Standard safety equipment

Inside, the styling takes a bit of a turn away from previous VW efforts by using circular vents, knobs and other controls rather than the squared-off look in the company's Passat, Jetta and Touareg models.

Silent killer on road

Driving safety experts call driver fatigue a silent killer and, in a sense, that is just what it is.

Fatigue operates in much the same way as alcohol. Drivers who are slightly tired won't drive as well or as safely as those who are alert. As tiredness increases, mental and physical performance drops until eventually the driver falls asleep.

Research suggests that one in five highway crashes are related to driver fatigue, although statistics are limited: Drivers who are tired are seldom willing to admit it and those who crash can be too badly injured to recall the events leading to the collision.

But it is clear there are far too many crashes arising from driver fatigue.

Staying alert

- Although fatigue is unavoidable, especially on long road trips, there are a number of simple steps you can take to reduce the problem:
- Get plenty of rest before a long journey, don't drive if you feel tired, or unwell.
- Adjust the driver's seat to a comfortable upright position and adjust the heating/air-conditioning to a cool, not cold, temperature.
- Try to avoid driving during the night when you would normally be asleep.
- Get out of your vehicle and walk around at the breaks, don't just sit in the seat.
- If you must continue, find a safe place to stop, have a caffeine-rich drink and then take a short nap for at least 20 minutes.

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Taurus returns, better than ever

Sedan brings perfect combination of space, style and efficiency

B. MCLAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada

A true full-size sedan, the Taurus is a roomy, refined and refreshing prospect that may change the way you look at an SUV from now on.

2008 Ford Taurus Limited AWD

Type: Full-size 5-pass. sedan AWD
Price: $37,922
Engine: 3.5L V6 DOHC
HP: 263 @ 6,250 rpm
Torque: 249 @ 4,500 rpm

Highlights

- Crisp fashionable styling
- Quieter interior
- Improved performance
- Generous trunk room
- Safety protection

Don't go worrying yourself if you think this "new" Taurus looks kinda familiar, you're heading in the right direction. That's 'cause what you see here is a substantially revised version of Ford's former Five Hundred full-size sedan.

A couple of years ago, shortly after a new CEO landed at Ford's Dearborn headquarters, the "last" Taurus rolled out of the automaker's Atlanta plant and the Five Hundred inherited the lead role in Ford's sedan lineup.

Despite its understated appeal, the Five Hundred didn't exactly make waves. So, in one of his first major moves, Ford's new honcho ordered the Five Hundred be totally reworked and the company's hallowed nameplate placed on it. Five hundred changes later, the 2008 Taurus was born.

All in all, it's a noticeably improved car compared with the old 'Fiver.'

That signature tri-bar grille up front is a focal point, nicely bridging the sleek, sculpted hood and shapely bumper. A chrome 'vent' on each front fender makes the Taurus as recognizable from the side as it is from the front. And new tail lamps bookend a strong horizontal treatment highlighted by a shining pair of chrome-tipped exhaust pipes.

The Taurus comes four ways. The very well-equipped base Taurus SEL starts at $29,645 in front-wheel-drive form, but if you prefer the extra traction and security of the SEL with all-wheel-drive that calls for a $31,870 entry fee. There's also a more richly rigged Taurus Limited, identified externally by its chrome door handles, side mirror accents and eyebrow above the rear licence plate. The two-wheel-drive Taurus in Limited trim begins at $35,252 while the all-wheel-drive version carries a $37,922 sticker price.

After a week with our loaded all-wheel-drive Limited model, which stickered at around $45,000, we'd say the upgrades to this reborn Taurus were a success.

The key change is a new 3.5-litre V6 which replaces the previous 3.0-litre Duratec six. Horsepower jumps by 60 to 263 hp, with a similarly substantial bump in the torque department top that helps deliver better off-the-line performance. Simply put, there's now enough power going through the standard six-speed automatic transmission to move out this new five-seat sedan respectfully.

Note too, that by today's standards this is a rare, proper, full-size family sedan, with a capital "F".

The Taurus is only 24 cm shorter than the old Mercury Grand Marquis model and actually has more trunk volume — by a healthy 17 litres.

A 20 per cent quieter interior, improved front suspension travel (which translates into better ride comfort) and Ford's ground-breaking hi-tech Sync communications and entertainment system all add to the overall appeal. Additional front side airbags and Ford's Safety Canopy side curtain airbags for both seat rows are standard.

Ford's eyesight to the blind spot

In a move to address driver demands for increased visibility Ford has pushed ahead by one year its innovative Blind Spot mirror, making it standard equipment on the 2009 Edge model.

The mirror offers better visibility for drivers as they change lanes or parallel park.

This affordable technology will debut later this year and eventually will be offered on several future Ford and Lincoln vehicles as standard equipment.

The Blind Spot Mirror is a traditional side view mirror designed with a secondary convex spotter in the top outer corner, which provides a view of the driver's blind spot. When traffic enters the driver's blind spot on either side of the vehicle, it is visible in the secondary convex mirror, alerting the driver of potential danger.

Ford will be making its innovative Blind Spot Mirror standard equipment on the 2009 Edge model.

The push to develop the Blind Spot Mirror and migrate it across its lineup comes as a result of careful customer research, said Kelly Kohlstrand with Ford's Advanced Product Marketing and Technology Planning team.

Early drive clinics conducted by Ford show that the Blind Spot Mirror is a feature customers want and value. Nearly 76 per cent of focus group participants said the mirror improved their confidence while driving.

GM charges up electric evolution

Sometimes a promising project that stalls prematurely can still pay off in the long run. Take GM's foray into the world of electric cars in the 1990s.

An inconvenient truth that you won't hear Al Gore talking about any time soon is that General Motors has put many of the engineers involved in its long-abandoned EV-1 electric car project into a new group to develop what it calls E-Flex technology.

E-Flex is the hybrid powertrain shown in the Chevrolet Volt concept car that's now the subject of a big push to bring it to production within two to three years. It employs an electric drive motor and a lithium-ion battery pack and has a small combustion engine on board to charge the batteries and extend the car's range.

GM is betting big on going the E-Flex route, which veteran product guru Bob Lutz predicts could account for a million cars a year in 10 years' time. The new team of some 500 engineers — many of whom worked on EV-1 until the project was scrapped in 1999 — is an indication of the importance that GM now places on electric cars in the future. It has decided to bring more of the electric vehicle technology in-house.

"The whole battery pack is new core knowledge for the auto industry. We see mainstream cars rapidly transitioning to electrification."
Bob Lutz

Lutz said, "The whole battery pack — cell chemistry, pack construction, control and monitoring systems — is new core knowledge for the auto industry. We see mainstream cars rapidly transitioning to electrification."

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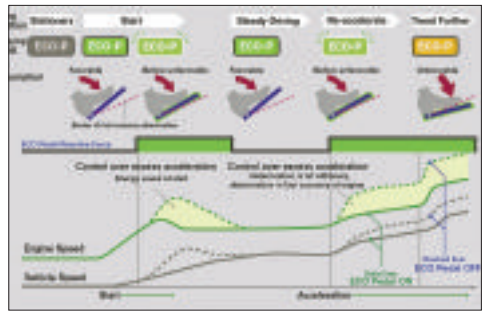
Putting brakes on fuel usage

Nissan has unveiled the ECO Pedal — a world first technology — designed to push back when you press the pedal to the metal and help you to become a more miserly driver ... of gasoline usage, that is.



Left, Nissan's ECO Pedal uses a real-time indicator to caution you about fuel consumption from excessive braking. Right, is a graphic explaining the ECO Pedal technology.

When the eco-pedal system is on, each time you step on the accelerator, a counter push-back control mechanism is activated if the system detects excess pressure, helping to inform you that you could be using more fuel than required.

An eco-driving indicator in the instrument panel feeds real-time fuel consumption levels to help improve your driving behaviour.

The ECO Pedal system is fed data on the rate of fuel consumption and transmission efficiency during acceleration and cruising, and then calculates the optimum acceleration rate. When the driver exerts excess pressure on the accelerator, the system counteracts with the pedal push-back control mechanism.

At the same time, the eco-driving indicator incorporated on the instrument panel indicates the optimal level for fuel-efficient driving. Driving within the optimal fuel consumption range, the indicator is green.

It begins to flash when it detects increased acceleration before reaching the fuel consumption threshold and finally turns amber to advise the driver of their driving behaviour.

The system can be turned on or off according to the driver's preference.

Nissan plans to commercialize the ECO Pedal during 2009. Research conducted by the automaker has shown that using the system can improve fuel efficiency by five to 10 per cent, depending on driving conditions.

Volkswagen tees up new Golf

Five generations, 34 years and over 26 million vehicles after the original first went on sale, the sixth generation of the Volkswagen Golf has been unveiled.

The new model continues the evolution of an icon.

It is the safest, most technically advanced and most dynamic iteration yet.

Instantly apparent is a sharply defined look that draws on the new design direction established by the sporty Scirocco. Klaus Bischoff, head of design for the Volkswagen brand led the team responsible for the shape of the new car.

It is more accentuated than its predecessor with precisely defined lines and edges and finely proportioned flared surfaces and recesses.

The result is a clean, elegant design that's easily recognizable as a Golf, yet remains an all-new shape.

The same simplicity and attention to detail were applied to the interior, with a quality level that benefits from the adoption of materials and equipment usually associated with a vehicle in a pricier segment.

High quality, soft touch plastics are integrated with tasteful aluminum and chrome highlights.

The new look is combined with advances made in reducing wind noise, including a completely new design of door and window seals, a new damping film that supports the windshield and a new engine mounting system, making the new Golf the quietest yet.

Toyota Segways into Winglet

In its constant quest to improve our modern mobility, Toyota — the world's biggest car manufacturer — has just unveiled its answer to the U.S.-developed Segway in the form of the Winglet — a 'personal transport assistant robot.'

The Japanese automaker plans three versions of the Winglet: the L, M and S models with handling features that range from "practical" to "hands-free sporty".

The Winglet uses an electric motor to power its two wheels and uses sensors and a gyroscope that monitors the rider's position to stay upright. Like the Segway it is directed by the user's shifting body weight.

It takes one hour to fully recharge the Winglet. Cruising speed is about 6 km/h, not quite as good as the Segway's top speed of 20 km/h.

There are three different versions of the Winglet. The L offers a set of hand-height handlebars like the Segway, but the other two variants only support users' legs. The S model has a cruising range of 5 km while the M and L can double that distance.

Toyota took over development of the Winglet from Sony, which wound up most of its robotics division last year. Real-world testing is imminent, with production already scheduled and sales due to start in 2010, although there is no confirmation as to whether it will be coming to North America.

The S-Model Winglet from Toyota.

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Location: Chief Sepass Theatre at The Langley Fine Arts School - 9096 Trattle Street, Fort Langley, BC

metro Do it daily.

Automotive in brief

CAR CAM Honda has become the world's first manufacturer to provide built-in 'car cameras' on their domestic-market models, providing indisputable evidence on the cause of car accidents. The iPod-size recorder unit detects the speed of the car and any G-forces it encounters. When the system detects more than 0.45g, it records the period 12 seconds before and 8 seconds after an accident. It can then be played back at will on the car's navigation screen. "Your own recorder could be a witness in court against you", one owner said about the unit.

MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLES The last of the current generation Mini convertibles has gone off to meet its new owner. After 164,000 units produced at its plant in Oxford, England, BMW has called time on its first generation Mini convertible line. A replacement is not imminent due to strong demand for the second generation Mini hatchback and new Mini Clubman models.

☐ Let your friends drive.

☑ Hahahahahahahahahahaha.

GT model shown.

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Turtle tale

Xcaret Park on the Mayan Riviera is celebrating its sea turtle conservation program with a kid- friendly exhibit called 15 Years of Sea Turtles, Xcaret, 1993-2008. The program has protected and released more than 1,900 turtles. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Comfy pet travel

Travel can be stressful for many dogs and cats long before you factor in those hard containers with cage-style doors and windows. The Sleepypod, left, is a versatile alternative that lets a pet up to 15 pounds stretch out in comfort. The dome top can be removed or adjusted to minimize fear and stress. The Sleepypod can fit in the back seat of a car; a Sleepypod Mini suits pets up to seven pounds, and fits under an airplane seat. Visit *meowme.com*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Witnessing extreme acts of faith

A dozen spiritual leaders sit in a neat row. Heads wrapped in green fabric, they chant in harmony; their palms drum faster on tambourines and the music grows more intense. I know what lies ahead and I'm worried.

I'm attending a lesser-known event that happens in the recesses of the Kataragama festival, a two-week long holy gathering in Sri Lanka that attracts 100,000 Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim pilgrims. Devotees, many of whom travel for weeks to get to this auspicious city, have come to worship and perform acts of self-mutilation.

Seated in a semi-circle among the crowd, I watch as a man with a long grey beard and a white sarong wrapped around his waist steps up. He starts dancing around, slowly working himself into a trance.

Next to a few sticks of burning incense, I see a set of tools, like something out of a medieval torturer's handbook.

He reaches for them, preparing to do the unfathomable. I recoil as he takes a knife and hammers it into his own skull. To the worshippers, this is a chance to prove their complete devotion to God.

The drums beat faster. The man, unfazed by the knife poking out of his head, reaches for a second knife.

He hammers the sharp end in with a small rock. The pain must be excruciating, but in this trance-like state of mind, he appears to feel nothing.

He dances around, with two knives sticking out of his head. I watch transfixed.

This is one of those random travel moments when I have to ask myself, 'Is this really happening?'"

It takes two people to pull the knives out of his head. Little droplets of blood splatter all over his white sarong as the music crescendos. This isn't an illusion. This is the real deal.

A succession of people get up to perform a variety of gut-wrenching acts. One man's cheek is pierced and nailed to a nearby palm tree; another man cuts his own tongue as if chopping up a piece of celery.

Then a young boy who looks about 13 is pulled from the crowd. He calmly offers his arm, which is pierced with a long metallic shard.

I'm not particularly religious, and I find it hard to understand why people would do these things to themselves. I learn there can be a variety of reasons for such acts — voluntary self-punishment, proclamation of faith and proof of invincibility among them. It seems that around the world, across many major faiths and throughout history, self-mutilation for religious purposes is a recurring theme.

An eye-opening experience, for certain.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

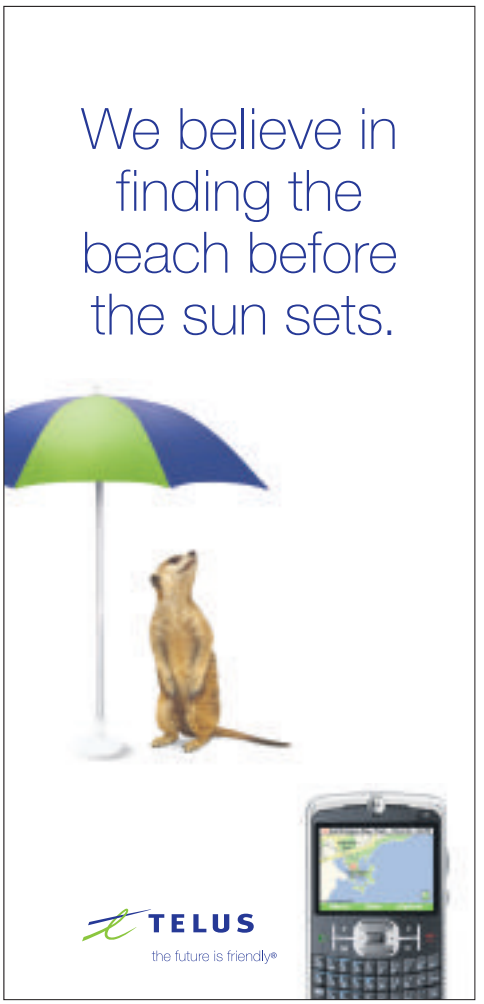
Deep in a religious trance, pilgrims perform acts of self-mutilation to show their faith.

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

thetraveljunkie.ca

This is one of those random travel moments when I have to ask myself, 'Is this really happening?'



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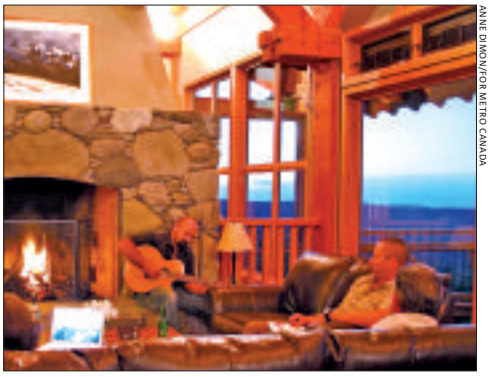
Great Scot
Ancestral Scots from around the world will be heading to the mother country next year for Homecoming Scotland 2009, a year-long celebration of Scottish heritage that culminates in the world's largest ever clan gathering on July 25 and 26 in Edinburgh. See *homecomingscotland2009.com* and *visitscotland.com*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

At Coastal Trek, hiking's the thing

Vancouver Island wellness retreat is just what the doctor ordered

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

COASTAL TREK HEALTH AND FITNESS RESORT


ANNE DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Left, hiking for health and fitness is the flagship activity of this family-run inn on Vancouver Island. Right, Coastal Trek co-owner Shayne Stuchbery entertains guests.

It's 6:00 a.m. when Tracy knocks on my door. Her cheery "good morning" is just loud enough to make sure I'm awake.

It's time for Sunrise Yoga at Coastal Trek Health and Fitness and sure enough, a bright orange crescent is peaking over the Coastal Mountains. Hugging a remote location on the edge of Forbidden Plateau, 20-minutes from the town of Comax and a three-hour drive from Victoria, this intimate, family-run retreat is all about health and fitness.

"It's not a boot camp," says Andrea Stuchbery, who with her husband Shayne, owns and operates the resort, "but a structured program designed to inspire guests to adopt a healthy, balanced lifestyle through fitness and healthy eating." Overlooking the evergreen-studded Comax Valley, Georgia Strait and the mountain range beyond, the timber-framed west coast-style lodge houses 12 guestrooms, kitchen, dining room, fitness studio and a small spa. There's also a Great Room with a stone fireplace hand-crafted by a local artist.

Following yoga class, breakfast is served on a dining room table carved from one massive tree trunk. Over fruit, yogurt, cereal toast and eggs cooked-to-order, lead hiking guide Mike Blake, explains today's outing. From a selection of about 100 nearby options, a different hike is scheduled each day based on the interests and fitness levels of guests.

We pick up bottles of water, our picnic lunches and head to the nearby town of Campbell River. Since, today's hike will take us to Cortez Island, our little group is hitching a ride from Captain Dan Williams and The Morningstar, a sturdy, six-passenger, aluminum work boat.

An hour later we cruise into Cortez Bay for the 90-minute hike up to Hague Lake in Kw'as Park where we stop for a lunch of quinoa salad, baby carrots just pulled out of a local farmers garden, an organic peach and a trail mix of almonds and dried cranberries. Healthy eating is all part of the deal.

> **"It's not a boot camp, but a structured program designed to inspire guests to adopt a healthy, balanced lifestyle."** Andrea Stuchbery

Today's hiking outing is shorter than most because there's an afternoon cooking class with Chef Cathy. Good thing too, says Mike, because today's hike is simply, "an appetizer for tomorrow."

Back in the kitchen, while snacking on miniature heirloom tomatoes, we learn how to make gazpacho and a low-fat roasted tomato vinaigrette.

Except for the last night of each seven-day program, there is no alcohol served here — yes, it's a health retreat — but during the cooking class, the chef surprises us by opening a bottle of sparkling wine to enjoy during the demo and tasting.

Dinner, always served at 6 p.m., is a group affair and meals are delicious and artfully presented. "And, so satisfying," says Rene, a San Francisco lawyer, "that you don't even notice you're eating healthy."

Andrea and Shayne set the tone for the care, nurturing and relaxed casualness that gives this place a special feel.

One afternoon finds Andrea in the kitchen hand-rolling sushi for dinner. One evening Shane grabs his guitar and entertains as we all sit around the fireplace. It's a nice, warm family feel.

"The feeling of being nurtured and cared for made me extend my stay by another two weeks," says Libby Lumley, an English school teacher who lives and teaches in China.

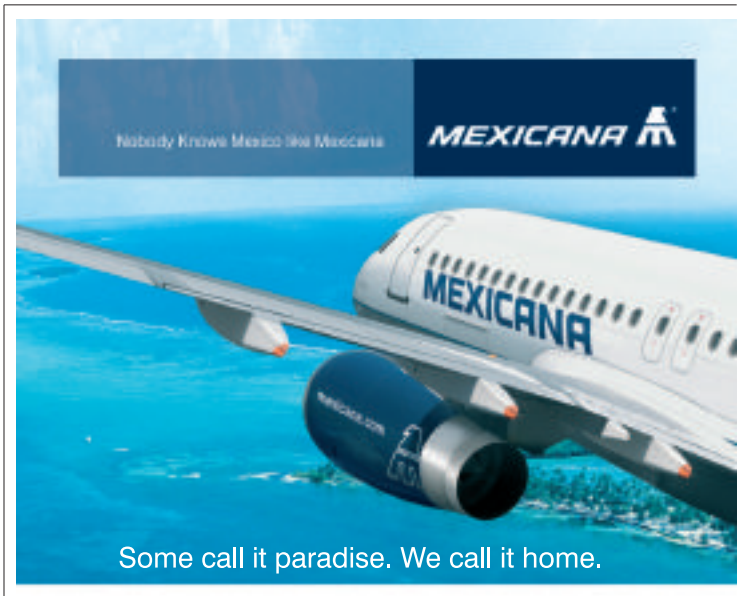
Evenings are very quiet. Guests enjoy massages in the two lower-level treatment rooms, sit around the fireplace reading or chatting, or simply head to bed. For each day brings another day of hiking — and tomorrow, it's the big one — a 27 km trek across Forbidden Plateau.

Yes. I did it, and to reward myself I passed on the Sunrise Yoga and slept in.

Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer. Visit traveltowellness.com.

Coastal Trek

- Coastal Trek Health & Fitness is open May to October and the minimum stay is seven days.
- For more information, visit *coastaltrekresort.com*.



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New gig for former Superman

Superman emeritus Dean Cain along with The Cable Guy's Conrad Janis and 7th Heaven's Maximillian Roeg have been cast in the horror-thriller Maneater, according to the Hollywood Reporter. **E! ONLINE**

Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Showbiz tough for celebs' kids

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

In The House Bunny, Rumer Willis plays a socially awkward sorority girl in a backbrace. Oddly enough, it was the ideal part for the young actress to launch her career.

"I was a big dork," admits Willis recently in L.A. "I just wasn't necessarily too active in really getting into the social crowd so I definitely understood the (idea of) not fitting in."

Rumer Willis may prove the exception to the rule. You see, she's the daughter of Hollywood icons Demi Moore and Bruce Willis — an esteemed lineage that naturally breeds instant popularity, fame and an entitled acting career, doesn't it?

Not necessarily. While huge stars like Angelina Jolie, Ben Stiller, Kate Hudson and Miley Cyrus belong to what writer Gary Susman once described as a "hereditary aristocracy," being born to famous parents doesn't guarantee Hollywood fame. Though, it does open doors: Casting director Billy Hopkins once admitted that if a celebrity's kid wants to act, "of course you will meet them."

It's a technical advantage that doesn't ensure a career. We all know Martin Sheen's sons Charlie and Emilio Estevez, but you probably aren't familiar with their sibling Ramon Estevez unless you've rented a stinker titled Alligator II: The Mutation.

Many celebrities' kids don't succeed in showbiz because they're also not willing to do the work. As Willis discovered making The House Bunny (which also stars Tom Hanks' son, Colin), being around a film set is not the same as filmmaking.

"I grew up around sets when I was younger but I was never necessarily in the movies," says Willis. "I'd just kind of sit in the trailer and hang out."

"There's a definite shift in your mindset when you go from being the accessory and then to being the one who's in front of the camera."

Perhaps the biggest reason celebrities' kids aren't guaranteed success is that they particularly draw the cynicism of overexposure in gossip magazines. For every Jane Fonda, there's a Paris Hilton or Brooke Hogan who aren't taken seriously because obtaining notoriety seemingly upstages any artful intent. For serious actors like Rumer Willis, that's a big danger to avoid.

"The media is a very interesting outlet because it allows people to see how they think you are, an idea of you but it's not necessarily who you really are."

MELINDA SUE GORDON SMPSP/FOR METRO TORONTO

Kat Dennings, from left, Anna Faris, Katharine McPhee, Emma Stone and Rumer Willis star in The House Bunny. Willis is the daughter of Hollywood icons Bruce Willis and Demi Moore.

The Rocker never really gets rolling

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

REVIEW The Rocker isn't exactly a detestable knockoff of The School of Rock, but it's about as original, and as funny, as a Yesterday cover.

Rainn Wilson plays Fish, a 1980s hair metal drummer axed from his band just before they hit superstardom. He gets his second chance some 20 years later drumming for his teen nephew's (Josh Gad) alt-rock group, after a clip of Fish rehearsing in the buff makes its way on the Internet, propelling the band to superstardom.

It's a recycled premise and the story arcs play out to formula: Burnt-out, heavy metal man-child brings nebbish, insecure kids out of their shells by educating them about the greatness of the rock gods who trod the paths currently before them, while he gains a sense of parental responsibility as the exchanges progress.

Rainn Wilson stars in The Rocker.

The Rocker

Director: Peter Cattaneo
Stars: Rainn Wilson, Josh Gad
Classification: PG-13
Rating: ⊕⊕

The Peter Cattaneo-directed (The Full Monty) film is far too sterilized for the Hannah Montana-tween audiences to gain the momentum needed for any real laughs, and the script doesn't play to Wilson's ironic and cerebral comedic strengths. He doesn't have Jack Black's wild-child rock n' roll mojo which made his 2003 comedy The School of Rock a success.

Maybe we're just too accustomed to Wilson's stellar and anal-retentive buffoonery as The Office's Dwight Schrute, but lines like, "I'm going to be responsible … for partying 'til my nuts catch fire!" never seem to go over the way they should.

The film does have its bright lights. Saturday Night Live's Jason Sudeikis plays the sleazebag manager to a tee.

Will Arnett, so adept at the role of the heavy, shines once again as the pretentious and corrupt airhead lead singer of the band that exiled Fish so many moons ago.

That said, The Rocker feels like the kind of skit SNL runs late in the show, the one that gets moderate chuckles within its first few minutes but wears out its welcome all too quickly.

In short: Ho ho ho … blah.

Hogan takes on comedy
Paul Hogan, the erstwhile Crocodile Dundee, is set to star in comedy Charlie & Boots. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lee parties at GM Place following Crüe concert

HollywoodNorth

Andrea Woo
andrea.woo@metronews.ca

The curiously appealing **Tommy Lee** held an afterparty in a dressing room at GM Place last week after his band **Mötley Crüe**'s concert there.

According to one witness, an unsurprisingly sizable group of scantily-clad lady folks were in attendance, wearing eager smiles and outfits that exposed their ovaries.

"One girl didn't have a backstage pass, so she went and talked to some bouncer, disappeared and got one," she said. "Someone asked her how she got it and she said, 'It's a secret.'" The witness added that bassist **Nikki Sixx** passed on the party, opting instead to head back to the tour bus with his girlfriend, tattoo artist **Kat Von D**.

GETTY IMAGE FILE

Burnaby musician **Matthew Good** ate at CinCin with the winner of a celebrity dinner auction Aug. 9, raising more than $2,000 for a local actress fighting breast cancer. **Babz Chula**, a Vancouverite with an extensive acting resume, was first diagnosed in 2005 and the cancer has since spread to her liver.

The event was one of several celebrity dinners — others include **David Duchovny** (**Californication**, **X-Files**) and **Gabrielle Miller** (**Corner Gas**, **Robson Arms**) — as well as movie and TV memorabilia being auctioned to raise funds for her medical bills. Good and his guest, Stella, dined on green asparagus soup and a very complex-sounding "one-year aged biodynamic risotto of sweet pea with mint."

SPOTTED: **Michael Keaton** (**Batman**, **Multiplicity**) eating at Blue Water Café on Friday; **Radiohead** frontman **Thom Yorke** talking on his cellphone outside Opus Hotel in Yaletown Sunday afternoon.

Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter.

Wilco eyeing spring '09 release

Rock band Wilco hopes to have its seventh studio album out by spring 2009, frontman Jeff Tweedy told Albany, N.Y., radio station WAMC recently.

After opting for a highly performance-oriented recording approach on 2007's Sky Blue Sky, Tweedy said he expects that Wilco will "allow ourselves a little bit more leeway in terms of sculpting the sound in the studio and doing overdubs and using the studio as another instrument. Last time around, it was more of a document."

At recent live shows, Wilco has played two new songs: One Wing recalls the melancholy, slowly building Sky Blue Sky closer On and On and On, while Sunny Feeling has a sly main riff in keeping with loose jams from the last album.

Before the release of Sky Blue Sky, Tweedy told Billboard that a number of unfinished songs from those sessions would potentially form the basis for the next album, but it is unknown if they remain in consideration at this point.

Wilco wraps a summer North American tour this weekend at San Francisco's inaugural Outside Lands Festival. After a one-off Aug. 30 Wilco festival gig in Ireland, Tweedy plays four solo shows in Spain through Sept. 6 in Murcia. The band will then tour Canada in the fall in support of Neil Young. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Wilco's new album will likely be out next year, says Jeff Tweedy.

Ronsons strike back at Oasis' Noel Gallagher

Mark Ronson has blasted Noel Gallagher. The Oasis rocker said last week the super-producer should "learn three chords on the guitar and go write a tune," instead of ruining other people's songs, music-news.com reports.

Now the Valerie hitmaker — whose album of covers Version was a massive hit — has taken a swipe at Noel joking he is being taught to play guitar by rapper Jay-Z.

Gallagher

Ronson

The hip-hop star mocked the Lyla rocker onstage at Glastonbury following Noel's comments a rap artist should not headline the music event.

Ronson wrote on his MySpace page: "I just want Noel to know that I'm actually taking guitar lessons from Jay-Z right now and he's already taught me both chords to Wonderwall.

"In fact, it's so much fun having Jay teach me all of Noel's songs on the guitar (hooray!) that I'm thinking of doing an Oasis/Jay Z remix album a la The Grey Album. Potential titles are Champagne Superhova or Definitely Jay Z.

"P.P.S. Noel, I did write a song called Back to Black, which actually has 7 chords in it!"

Mark's DJ sister Samantha Ronson has also leapt to her brother's defence.

"He should stop focusing his energy on dissing people and go back to ripping off Beatles songs."

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Take That top boy band poll

Take That have been voted the greatest boy band in a new poll. The British group took the accolade in the vote of 5,000 music fans by website onepoll.com, beating acts including The Beatles and Jackson Five to the top spot. MUSIC-NEWS.COM

Human Highway takes shape

Canadian duo crafts rootsy pop tunes on debut album Moody Motorcycle

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

JAMIE FOGEL

Human Highway's debut album — Moody Motorcycle — is a sophisticated collection of rootsy pop tunes that recall the Everly Brothers or the Traveling Wilburys.

For some musicians, the daily grind of touring in a small van with the same sweaty guys turns them off writing for months, but not Jim Guthrie. The ex-Islands guitarist not only jammed with his former band night after night, he teamed up with the group's lead singer, Nick Thorburn, to start a whole other group.

"Nick had been writing the song My Beach while we were on tour and he came up to my hotel room and asked if I wanted to record it," says Guthrie, explaining how Human Highway, his new laid-back Toronto-based duo, was formed. "We didn't actually have all the instruments you hear on the track so we did the rest of it back it my house."

Most of Moody Motorcycle, the twosome's debut disc, was conceived in Guthrie's house. While it's definitely a collaboration — many of the songs feature both musicians on vocals — the project came together mostly as a result of Thorburn's desire to work with his bandmate in an non-Islands setting.

"What we've done is just wrote a bunch of songs we both really love, and it turns out other people hear something in them as well."
Jim Guthrie

"Nick really wanted to write songs with me," says Guthrie. "He's was like, 'I'm going to come to Toronto and sleep on your couch.' If it wasn't for Nick it probably wouldn't have happened."

It's not that Guthrie was opposed to taking on a new musical endeavour; he's just not as motivated as his partner. The Guelph-born singer-songwriter admits that he can sit on songs for months, while Thorburn forges ahead to get things done. "He's willing to commit to a song. He doesn't hold back," explains Guthrie, who adds that his followup to his 2003 solo album is still in the works. "I'm more, 'Is this a good idea? A bad idea? Maybe I'll stew over it for the next year.'"

Luckily, Guthrie didn't wait months to sort out his parts on Moody Motorcycle. In fact, the songs sound closer to his own soft-spoken acoustic work than the grandiose arrangements that Thorburn created on Arm's Way, the most recent Islands disc.

Although it was recorded in about two weeks, Human Highway's disc is a sophisticated collection of rootsy pop tunes that recall the Everly Brothers or the Traveling Wilburys. The harmonies are easily the best part, but the calm, thoughtful songwriting is what really drives this disc.

With good reviews coming in from fans and critics alike, what was supposed to be a side-project looks like it could be turning into something more. "We were talking of maybe doing a sporadic show or two before the year is out," says Guthrie. "But maybe this has more to give than we originally thought.

"I do stuff for me and if there's an audience great," he adds. "We were just leaving ourselves an out. What we've done is just wrote a bunch of songs we both really love, and it turns out other people hear something in them as well."

Tensions mount inside actors union

LABOUR Tensions within the Screen Actors Guild mounted Monday as the union's Hollywood-based leaders rejected a call by SAG's New York branch to bring in a federal mediator to break a deadlock in contract talks with major studios.

Members of the New York regional board also publicly challenged the assertions of SAG president Alan Rosenberg and chief negotiator Doug Allen that the union is holding informal talks with studio representatives in a bid to close a deal.

And they accused SAG negotiators, in a resolution passed unanimously last week by the 23-member New York board, of "failing to bargain realistically ... and remove unattainable items from the table."

"There's no discernible plan here," New York division board member Paul Christie told Reuters. "You can't have a plan that just says, 'We're holding secret meetings.' And our question is just what the hell does that mean? REUTERS

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Bono pumps volume, lets slip new U2 songs

Rock stars may have to rein in their taste for loud music after a fan overheard U2 frontman Bono listening to tracks from the group's forthcoming album and recorded them before posting the songs on the Internet.

The fan heard the music blaring out of the Irish rocker's holiday home in the south of France, recorded it on his mobile phone and posted four tracks on video-sharing website YouTube, newspapers and music websites reported yesterday.

The previously unheard songs had now been removed from the website for copyright reasons but continued to circulate via e-mail, the Irish Independent newspaper said.

Nobody at U2's record label could immediately be reached for comment on the reports.

The quality of the recording was said to be poor, with the noise of waves and seagulls audible in the background. REUTERS

going out

8 p.m. Club DJs 4 Korners (from Toronto) lead a great music lineup. At Republic, 958 Granville St. Tix: $12. Info: 4korners.com.

9 p.m. Live performances by Elias, Satellite Nation, Maurice and The Buffalo Jump. At The Plaza Club, 881 Granville St. Tix: $12. Info: plazaclub.net.

9 p.m. Downbeats on the Drive, playing an eclectic mix of downtempo electronic music. At Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Dr. Tix: By donation.

10 p.m. Mobin Master (from Ministry of Sound) and Hed Kandi spin live. At Tunnel Multi-Lounge, 622 W. Pender St. Tix: $15. Info: entertunnel.com.

Avril too sexy for Malaysia
An Avril Lavigne concert scheduled for later this month in Malaysia has been cancelled amid complaints that the show by the Canadian rock singer is "too sexy." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Milwaukee erects bronze Fonz

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

FONZ IN BRONZE: I don't think I'm alone in thinking that there's something a bit sad about the commemorative statues to long-gone TV shows being erected by the cities in which they were putatively set. Every year a new one is dedicated, and this week Milwaukee got its own. It joins the memorials to prime-time past in cities like Minneapolis, Chicago, New York, Salem, Mass., and Raleigh, NC., dedicated to the posterity of TV characters such as Mary Richards, Dr. Robert Hartley, Ralph Kramden, Samantha Stephens and Sherriff Andy Taylor.

If you don't recognize any of those names, don't worry — these bronze likenesses aren't meant for you, but for those fervent souls who will put a detour in their weekend, or even their vacation, to travel to the street corner where they're on display, to beg passersby to take a quick snap of them throwing their knitted hat in the air, or twitching their nose suggestively. The keen of eye will notice that they all celebrate shows that were popular from the '50s to the '70s — the heyday of boomer primetime pop culture. For the rest of us, it's hard not to regard them as the (barely) acceptable face of the self-mythologizing impulse that would create a (shudder) Woodstock museum.

Toronto has its own TV memorial to Al Waxman, the man who played Larry King on The King of Kensington. The statue is in Kensington Market, appropriately, though it's of Waxman as himself, and not in character. It's also unique in that the show it commemorates was actually filmed in the same city where it was set, unlike every other TV memorial, including the newest to Henry Winkler as Arthur (The Fonz) Fonzarelli from ABC's Happy Days.

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

A life-size monument of Henry Winkler (The Fonz) is the latest in a trend of commemorative TV show statues being created.

Milwaukee's media were out in force to cover the unveiling, with no less than three columns in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel on the significance of the life-sized (five feet six inches — Winkler is not a giant) statue of The Fonz, thumbs up as he delivered his trademark catchphrase (I won't repeat it here — ask your dad). TV columnist Tim Cuprisin wondered about the local inspirations for Arnold's Drive-In and the all-American Cunningham family, while Jim Stingl followed around cast members as they visited local points of interest (the MillerCoors brewery, the Harley-Davidson museum).

Eugene Cane got the bleaker task of comparing the bygone setting of the show (the late '50s, theoretically, though by the end of its 11-season run it was set in some temporal no-man's land) with the grimmer realities of Milwaukee today. "Nobody worried Joanie would come home pregnant because girls her age didn't get pregnant," Cane wrote. "The Cunninghams lived in the city, not the suburbs, and they were proud of it." Sorry to quibble, but girls Joanie's age did get pregnant back then — I'm living proof of that. Milwaukee's ownership of Happy Days with its bronze Fonz is touching, but the show was only barely about Milwaukee, and more about the first stages of boomer nostalgia for the comfortable home life their generation's leading lights had so noisily rejected mere years before. Bending to the first law of period productions, it was really about the time when it was made, a fact cast in bronze years ago when the Jaws craze prompted Happy Days to inspire the phrase "jumping the shark" (Google it, youngsters).

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Media won't get 90210 preview

TELEVISION

90210 star Shenae Grimes.

Critics and other members of the media hoping to get a sneak peek at the CW's upcoming series 90210 are out of luck.

The network and producing studio issued a statement Monday saying they won't be sending out DVDs of the highly anticipated show before its Sept. 2 premiere.

"The CW and our studio partner CBS Paramount Network Television have made the strategic marketing decision not to screen 90210 for any media in advance of its premiere," the statement said. "We're not hiding anything – simply keeping a lid on 90210 until Sept. 2, riding the curiosity and anticipation into premiere night and letting all our constituents see it at the same time."

REUTERS/HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

In brief

GM HITS THE BRAKES ON OSCAR General Motors said earlier this week that it has dropped the curtain on advertising during the Academy Awards ceremony and will pull out of the Emmys in September as part of its efforts to slash ad spending and marketing costs.

The decision not to buy advertising time during the Oscars, which will air in February on ABC, is "not just about cost-cutting but also about best return on investment and spending on properties that work best for our objectives," GM rep Kelly Cusinato said.

WILLIAMS GOES NATIONWIDE Talk-show host Wendy Williams has found a national home on the Fox Television Stations group. Her hour-long daytime program, The Wendy Williams Show, is set to launch on the station group in mid-2009 after its six-week preview on Fox-owned stations in New York (WNYW), Los Angeles (KTTV), Dallas (KDFW) and Detroit (WJBK). REUTERS

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VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 8/20/08	251	308	3 CBC	(3:00) XXIX Summer Olympics (Live) (CC)				XXIX Summer Olympics From Beijing. Athletics: men's decathlon, day one.				
	255	358	6 CH	E! News	The Insider	Greatest American Dog (N)		Janice Dickinson Modeling		William Shatner		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Law & Order: SVU		Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	TMZ (N) (CC)	Hollywood	Law & Order "Betrayal" (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: NY (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	According-Jim	George Lopez	Happy Days	Growing Pains	Jeeves and Wooster (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (PA) (CC)		NCIS "Dog Tags" (CC)		Crime Stories (N) (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	Wife Swap "Gillette/Turner"		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Bigfoot's Reflection		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Make Me a Supermodel		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Entourage	Entourage	Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Greatest American Dog (N)		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: NY (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Olympic Zone	XXIX Summer Olympics (Same-day Tape) (CC)						
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Shopping	Style by Jury	Three Fat Brides		Coleen's Real Women (N)		Maxed Out
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Wife Swap "Gillette/Turner"		Supernanny (CC)		Primetime: Crime (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	22 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	The Forsaken ★ (2001, Horror) Kerr Smith, Brendan Fehr.				Cheers (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Wings-Canada	Nova scienceNOW (N)		Nova scienceNOW (N)		Carrier "Get Home-itis"		Cousteau-Adv.
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (PA) (CC)		Sarah Connor Chronicles		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	29 PBS	(6:30) American Masters		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Lucille Ball: Finding Lucy	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	46 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) The Unit (CC)		TBA	Late Late
news	502	390	23 NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Doc Zone: Dubai		National
	500	500	33 CNN	(6:30) CNN Presents (N) (CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		CNN Presents Sen. John McCain. (CC)			CNN Presents (CC)	
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Soccer 2010 World Cup Qualifier -- Brazil vs. Canada.				Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(3:30) XXIX Summer Olympics		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		NASCAR Racing		Score Golf: Top 100 Courses		SportsCentre
	411	457	43 OLN	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up (CC)	Odyssey	The Rig (CC)
	410	403	24 SCR	Score Tonight		Schwab	World Series of Poker		Score Update	Score Update		Score Update
	417	406	25 SC	NASCAR Race	Pinks Out	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Out	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Amistoso		Gol TV News		American Soccer		Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	48 YTV	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Tom & Jerry	Tom and Jerry	6teen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	Heavy Metal 2000 ★★ (2000) Billy Idol		
	557	541	51 FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	58 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	The Bittles	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Meerkat	Undersea	Ancient Clues (CC)		Voyages of Discovery		For King and Country (CC)		Yo-Yo: Bach
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Tara Diaries	Living, Dream	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed (CC)
	570	580	42 MM	America's Best Dance Crew		Born to Be	Totally Untrue	Punk'd (CC)	America's Best Dance Crew		Born to Be	Spotlight
	600	564	49 H&G	Flipping Out "Tapped Out"		Holmes	Holmes	Property Shop	City	Property	Unsellable	Flipping Out
	615	520	51 A&E	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel Mindfreak (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel
	628	584	52 SPKE	Real Vice	Real Vice	UFC Unleashed		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Deep Space 9
	521	560	54 TLC	16 Children and Moving In		Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	16 Children and Moving In		Jon & Kate
	616	522	60 SHO	ReGenesis (CC)		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Full Metal Jacket ★★★ (1987, War)		
	620	523	70 BVO	Entourage	Bravonews	Law & Order "Terminal"		Without a Trace (CC)		Entourage	Bravonews	Beyond
	601	562	41 SLC	Inside Hollywood (N) (CC)		X-Weighted (CC)		Work Out Skylab dream.		Inside Hollywood (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	62 DIS	Mayday "Dead Weight" (CC)		Daily Planet "Goes Green 3"		MythBusters (CC)		Dirty Jobs Cave biologist.		Mayday (CC)
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Jeopardy" (CC)		Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Mob Stories "Unto the Son"		NCIS "Jeopardy" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Supernatural "Ghostfacers"		Stargate SG-1 "Lockdown"		Star Trek: Voyager "Faces"		Star Trek: Enterprise (CC)		Star Trek Gen.
	294	650	57 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	A Time to Kill ★★★ (1996) Sandra Bullock.		
	619	525	48 TROP	TV Made	TV Made	ET Canada	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	Family Guy
	603	561	82 FN	The Next Food Network Star		Challenge "Ice Cream Clash"		Iron Chef America (CC)		The Next Food Network Star		Challenge
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	30 CEN	(6:20) Full Disclosure ★ (CC)		Walk All Over Me (2007) Leelee Sobieski. (CC)		(:45) Mr. Woodcock ★★ (2007, Comedy) (CC)				Walk All
	581	566	101 MTV	Run's House	Buzzin (N)	MTV Live	After	The Hills	After	Run's House	Buzzin (CC)	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Soferet: A Special Scribe		Footbinding: Golden Lotus		Jeeves and Wooster (CC)		Chambers	No Place Like	Paid Program
	-	-	109 MUL	The Land	Daughters	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics' corner

Reba
Oh. My. God. Acutally, it's more like HER God. Cheyenne (JoAnna Garcia) asks Reba (Reba McEntire) to talk to Van (Steve Howey) about his loss of faith in God and his decision to quit going to church. She and Barbra Jean (Melissa Peterman) try their best but get nowhere. Reba decides to ask the minister, who turns out to be a handsome newcomer (Patrick Fabian) whose interest in her is more than spiritual in "And God Created Van." 6 PM on CMT

Bones
Nothing says "job stress" like having your co-workers try to send your dad to death row. Brennan's (Emily Deschanel) father, Max (Ryan O'Neal), is on trial for murder, and all her colleagues at the Jeffersonian are testifying for the prosecution. She's on the other side, advising counsel on the forensics of the case and looking for some way to clear her father's name. David Boreanaz also stars in "The Verdict in the Story." 8 PM on GTV FOX

Fox happy in the sun

Transformers star Megan Fox is sure to upset cancer experts and dermatologists — by insisting the sun and sea work wonders for her. She says, "I find that being out in the sun is better for you than people think." IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Mom inspired cancer battle: Applegate

SURVIVOR Actress Christina Applegate knew she would survive breast cancer — because she watched her own mother battle with the disease for years, imdb.com reports.

The 36-year-old star underwent a double mastectomy following her diagnosis with the deadly illness last month — leaving her "clear" of any tumours.

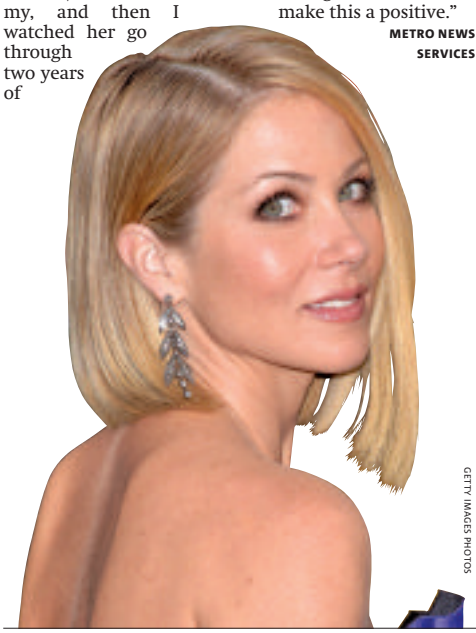
And she insists her mother Nancy — a two-time breast cancer survivor — was her saviour throughout the battle.

She says, "I watched (my mother) have a mastectomy, and then I watched her go through two years of chemotherapy and eight surgeries and a hysterectomy. I've watched this woman survive ... so for me there was always that sense I was going to be okay, no matter what.

"I really love living and I really love my life and I knew from this moment on there was only going to be good that was going to be coming.

"Yeah, I'm going to face challenges, but you can't get any darker than where I've been. So just knowing that in my soul gave me the strength to just say I have to get out there and make this a positive."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Kate running to Owen?

RELATIONSHIPS Kate Hudson is reportedly trying to reconcile with Owen Wilson, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Fool's Gold actress is said to have been bombarding the Wedding Crashers star with phone calls since her split from cyclist Lance Armstrong last month, and although her old flame initially wasn't interested, he is now considering rebuilding their relationship for a third time.

A source said: "He was frosty at first. He felt betrayed when she dumped him for his friend Lance. But after a while, he caved in and has been sweet to her."

The pair first dated in 2006 after meeting on the set of You, Me and Dupree.

Owen attempted suicide soon after their break-up in June 2007. They enjoyed a brief reconciliation earlier this year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Kanye's crush? Sexy Scarlett

IMAGE Kanye West is a proud fan of Scarlett Johansson, usmagazine.com reports. The rapper posted a blog on his official site entitled "MY FAVORITE WHITE GIRL!!!!!!!" that consists of her name and dozens of photos of her — scantily-clad.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Aniston wasn't dumped: Pal

RELATIONSHIPS Apparently, John Mayer angered Jennifer Aniston's pals when he told photographers over the weekend that he "ended" the relationship. "He's acting like a spoiled child," an Aniston pal snipped to MSNBC's Courtney Hazlett. "Expect Jen to behave like a lady." (Incidentally, the source adds, "it's she who ended the relationship.")

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paris' rep denies boob job

RUMOUR Paris Hilton has slammed reports she has undergone plastic surgery to enhance the size of her breasts, imdb.com reports.

The hotel heiress — who once flaunted her petite A-cups on the cover of U.S. magazine Vanity Fair — sparked rumours she has had breast implants after she was recently photographed with a noticeably larger chest.

But a spokesperson for Hilton insists she hasn't had her breasts surgically altered, crediting "a prototype from her Paris Hilton 'push-up' bra line" for the star's enlarged cleavage. The representative adds: "Paris has never had plastic surgery." METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Britney owes hefty lawyer fees

DIVORCES Who said getting back on track was cheap? Stacy Phillips, one of the members of Britney Spears' legal team, has filed a declaration in Los Angeles Superior Court saying the songstress owes Sometimes I Run $338,414.87 to Phillips, eonline.com reports. There are rumours of a lawsuit in the works to dispute the sum.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Obviously **Megan Fox** is one to shy away from speaking her mind on controversial subjects. She has revealed that she likes the sun! Also on her list of 'turn-ons' are food, oxygen, shelter, and walking erect.

If **Britney Spears** thinks her legal fees are too high, she has only herself to blame. She should have represented herself in court, like **K-Fed** did. Apparently his rap version of Inherit the Wind really swung the custody battle his way.

Will **Kate Hudson** and **Owen Wilson** be third time lucky? You know, there's an unwritten law about not trying to get back with someone who once attempted suicide when you broke up with them before. Of course, the fact that it's unwritten may explain why **Kate Hudson** hasn't read it. That's why I'm writing it now: Step away from the tousle-haired manchild, harlot, if he dies **Ben Stiller**'s movies will become even less funny than they already are.

The aftermath of the Anisyer break up is taking up more time than the actual relationship did, with both **Jennifer Aniston** and **John Mayer** giving conflicting reports as to who did the dumping. It all seemed vaguely familiar to me somehow ... This happened, over and over again, when we were all in Grade 7.

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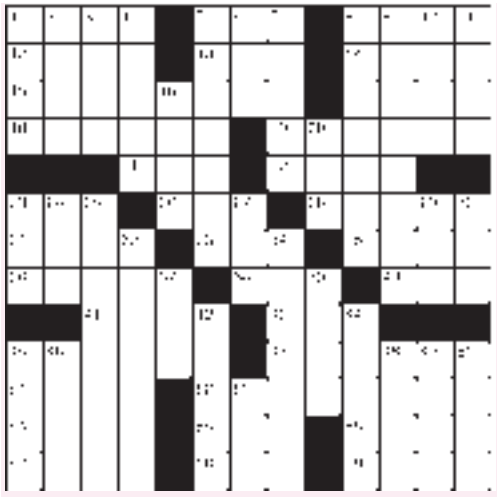
PCTIA ACCREDITED

Watchmen in trouble

Film studio Twentieth Century Fox has applied to block the release of Watchmen, based on the comic books written by Alan Moore. Fox, which says it bought film rights to the series in the 1980s, has been given the go-ahead to launch an injunction against rival Warner Bros. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Take Five



Crossword down

1 H.H. Munro's pseudonym
2 Borrower's burden
3 Pastoral piece
4 Small plateaus
5 Vaccine supplement
6 Author Fleming
7 Staff of life
8 ATV's place
9 Nonsense
10 Fat
11 Leg part
16 Doppelganger
20 A billion years
23 Resort
24 Joan of —
25 Big name in aircraft
27 Symbol of intrigue
29 Leading lady?
30 NASDAQ counterpart
32 Bedtime recitations
34 Talk about
37 Every iota
39 Cherished
42 English county
44 Devoted groups
45 Reverberate
46 Trampled
48 Chimney dust
49 Beige
50 Pallet
53 Luau bowlful

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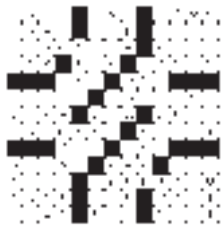
Crossword across

1 Slender
5 Clothing protector
8 Russian city
12 Helper
13 Rowing tool
14 Satyrlike creature
15 Pennsylvania, the — State
17 Run away
18 The Bushes, to Henry Hager
19 Add carbon dioxide
21 Perch
22 "Let's Make a Deal" option
23 Bando of baseball lore
26 Fresh
28 Unadorned
31 Support
33 Roulette bet
35 "Whip It" group
36 Capital of Ghana
38 "The Price Is Right" guess
40 Archer's bow wood
41 Money, slangily
43 Moment
45 Some alcohols
47 Reasons
51 Algonquian language
52 Morgan of "Super Size Me"
54 Gardener, at times
55 Dawn goddess
56 Actress Spelling
57 Probability
58 Greek consonants
59 Poker variety

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Improvement in a love affair creates good cheer. A fantasy will come to light. Persistence will produce huge dividends.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Unnecessary anxieties need to be thought through. Conflict arises between desires and principles. Ease the pain of unrequited love.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A careless person makes another blunder. A woman's deceit baffles everyone. Be courageous in defining your boundaries.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Women will involve you in an uncertain situation. You'll be a happy island in a sea of gloom. Consult a legal expert about a dispute.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Your animal magnetism is at a high point. Something precious is coming your way. Don't put too much stock in a tricky scheme.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Sympathy is given after a speech about liberty. Make it easier for someone to take you seriously. Say goodbye to childish things.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Make the best decision for everyone. Therapy is necessary for someone in crisis. A distress signal shouldn't be ignored.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
Get rid of things that you don't need. Make space in your agenda for new ventures. Help someone to deal with reality.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
Remarkable news is overheard. Obstacles will contribute to better problem solving. A hearty person's hasty words will lead to grief.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A scathing remark from a friend causes disquiet. Pay attention to alarms. Frustration results from interference.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A special friend has good times in mind. Show someone your true colours. Get inspiration from a smart man.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
The truth comes out after a mysterious encounter. Comments will fly fast and furiously. Do your best with a dull task.

This day in history

AUG. 20, 1940: Exiled Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky is fatally wounded in Mexico City by an assassin's ice axe. He dies the next day.
AUG. 20, 1953: The Soviet Union publicly acknowledged it had tested a hydrogen bomb.
AUG. 20, 1969: All four Beatles were together in the recording studio for the final time as they finished the Abbey Road LP.
AUG. 20, 1986: In Edmond, Okla., U.S. Postal employee Patrick Sherrill guns down 14 of his co-workers and then commits suicide.
AUG. 20, 1998: The Supreme Court of Canada states Quebec cannot legally secede from Canada without the federal government's approval. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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metro Do it daily.

Sudoku

	9		5		2		1	
		6	1		3	2		
	2	1				9	6	
			9		8			
4								2
			3		7			
	7	5				4	9	
		4	7		5	6		
	8		4		9		7	

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

7	4	8	2	9	1	5	6	3
2	3	6	4	8	5	9	7	1
1	5	9	6	3	7	8	2	4
4	6	2	9	5	8	1	3	7
5	8	1	7	4	3	6	9	2
3	9	7	1	2	6	4	8	5
6	7	4	3	1	9	2	5	8
8	1	3	5	6	2	7	4	9
9	2	5	8	7	4	3	1	6

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

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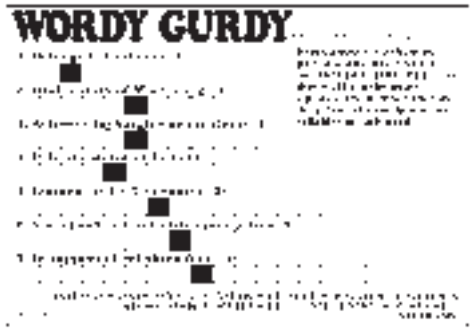

Vancouver weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
60%	80%	60%		
Thunder-storms. 17°	Showers. Low 14°	Showers. 18°/15°	Variable. 18°/14°	Cloudy. 21°/15°

Temperature
Normals
High: 21.6°
Low: 13°

Records
High: 27.2°/1950
Low: 8.3°/1944

Sunrise: 6:12 a.m.
Sunset: 8:18 p.m.
Moonset: 10:54 a.m.
Moonrise: 9:26 p.m.

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Belize	FROM **$639**
Costa Rica	FROM **$699**
Phuket	FROM **$879**

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Montreal	FROM **$179**
Frankfurt	FROM **$199**
Amsterdam	FROM **$299**
London	FROM **$349**
Paris	FROM **$349**
New York	FROM **$399**
Hong Kong	FROM **$599**
Bangkok	FROM **$699**
Beijing	FROM **$699**
Lima	FROM **$799**
Buenos Aires	FROM **$849**
Auckland	FROM **$1089**
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INCLUDES roundtrip international and domestic airfare, 7 nights 4-star accom in Phuket and 3 nights 3.5-star central accom in Bangkok with direct sky train access. **ADD** Phuket jungle elephant trek from $36.

Hong Kong 4-Star FROM **$1399**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers, 7 nights 4-star accom with daily breakfast, a Hong Kong island tour and a city & harbour night tour including a visit to Temple St, dinner & cruise on a traditional Chinese junk.

Bali & Tokyo FROM **$1439**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, 7 nights 4-star accom in Bali and 2 nights 4-star central accom in Tokyo. Extensions available. **ADD** Mt Fuji and Hakone day tour from $147.

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FAMILY SPECIAL
FROM **$249***

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 4 nights 3-star accom just outside *Disneyland* Park. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $18 per night. **ADD** 3-day *Disneyland* Resort *Park Hopper* Bonus Ticket from $168.

Las Vegas 4 Nights FROM **$249**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 4 nights 3-star accom in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $20 per night. **ADD** *Cirque du Soleil* tickets starting from $149 per person.

Phoenix 4-Star FROM **$559**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, 3 nights 4-star accom in the heart of trendy Scottsdale and a full day Grand Canyon excursion.

San Francisco 3-Star FROM **$559**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 3 nights 3-star accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $39 per night. **ADD** cable car tour with bay cruise from $49.

New York 3-Star FROM **$899**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 3 nights 3-star accom in Manhattan. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $34 per night. **ADD** select Broadway show or musical from $99.

European Holidays

Frankfurt 4-Star FROM **$399**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and the first 2 nights 4-star central accom with breakfast. **ADD** Rhine Valley cruise & wine tasting from $128.

London 3.5-Star FROM **$479**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and the first 2 nights 3.5-star central accom with breakfast. **ADD** 4-day Britrail Flexipass from $262.

Paris 3.5-Star FROM **$599**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and the first 2 nights 3.5-star central accom with breakfast. **ADD** 2-day Le Paris Visite pass from $46.

Adventure Tour Holidays

Brazil & Argentina FROM **$699**
INCLUDES all accom & transportation on this 11-day small group tour from Buenos Aires to Rio de Janeiro. Experience these vibrant capital cities, take in the splendour of the immense Iguassu Falls and wander the cobblestone streets and relax on the fantastic beaches of Paraty. From tango and great coffee in Buenos Aires to sun and surf in Rio, this trip has it all!

China FROM **$879**
INCLUDES all accom & transportation on this 9-day small group tour from Beijing to Shanghai. Walk along the Great Wall of China, be amazed by the ancient Terracotta Warriors, soak up the culture in Suzhou and experience the bustle of busy Shanghai. Combine the imperial grandeur of palaces and temples with the vibrancy of modern cities and famous waterways for the perfect taste of China.

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3-STAR
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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 3-star all-inclusive accom. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star accom from $20 per night. **ADD** canopy zip line adventure from $84.

Mayan Riviera 5-Star FROM **$669**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 5-star all-inclusive accom. **ADD** swimming with the dolphins at Xel-Ha from $144.

Punta Cana 4-Star FROM **$719**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star junior suite all-inclusive accom.

Kauai 7 Nights FROM **$859**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 7 nights accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $34 per night. **ADD** Kauai learn to surf package from $64.

Costa Rica 4-Star FROM **$1089**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom.

Honduras 4-Star FROM **$1459**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom.

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FROM **$469^**

INCLUDES 7-day Norwegian cruise and onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Los Angeles and visit Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. Price includes port charges. **UPGRADE** to oceanview cabin from $15 per day.

Western Caribbean FROM **$519^**
INCLUDES 7-day Norwegian cruise and onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Miami and visit Roatan, Belize City, Cozumel and Great Stirrup Cay. Price includes port charges. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $16 per night.

Mediterranean FROM **$729^**
INCLUDES 12-day Norwegian cruise and onboard meals & entertainment. Sail from Istanbul to Barcelona and visit Izmir, Athens, Dubrovnik, Venice, Naples and Rome. Price includes port charges. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $18 per night.

San Diego Cruise & Stay FROM **$939^**
INCLUDES 9-night Celebrity Pacific Coastal cruise sailing from Vancouver to San Diego visiting Victoria, Seattle, Astoria, San Francisco and Monterey, 2 nights 3-star accom on a secluded peninsula in Mission Bay and return airfare to Vancouver. **ADD** SeaWorld pass from $79.

Panama Canal FROM **$969^**
INCLUDES 10-night Royal Caribbean cruise and onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Miami and visit Aruba, Cartagena, Panama Canal, Puerto Limon and Grand Cayman. Price includes port charges. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $31 per day.

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